Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 82 | FRIDAY APRIL 6, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you intend to sign the petition to put Article 12 on the ballot this November?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

LOCAL

Over 15,000 books have so far been shipped to the CNMI by the Library of Congress. ➤ PAGE 16

ASIA

A suicide bomber on a motorcycle kills at least 10 people, including three GI's. ➤ PAGE 20

LIFE & STYLE

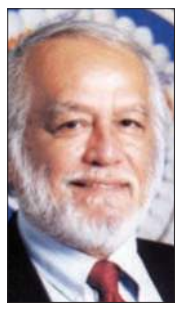
Hollie Cavanaugh didn't give the judges a good feeling on "American Idol." ➤ PAGE 23

Unified security protocols in school campuses. PAGE 3
Billionaire's yacht hunts for lost plane off Palau . PAGE 17

1 pct. gross revenue surtax eyed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new local bill proposes an additional 1 percent gross revenue surtax on Saipan, which could roughly translate to 10 cents for every $10.



Torres

The existing top gross revenue tax rate is 5 percent.

A 1-percent surtax would be about a 20-percent increase over the current gross revenue tax rate and could produce some $9.2 million in additional revenue for Saipan.

» To help restore government's 80 work hours

There has been no increase in the gross revenue tax since its inception in 1982.

See SURTAX on Page 4

GOP picks Bolis as delegate bet

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gonzales

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Republican Party picked on Wednesday night John Oliver "Bolis" Gonzales as their candidate for nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives on Nov. 6, although Gonzales asked for a week to either accept or reject the nomination.

» Party names 6 of 9 to attend GOP national convention in Florida

Some party members said yesterday that Gonzales is "90 percent" likely to accept the GOP nomination, given his good showing in the 2008 delegate race by finishing third in a nine-way race won by two-term Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP).

"We'll let the public know in due time," Gonzales told *Saipan Tri-*

See GOP on Page 4

Froilan to hold back own casino initiative

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tenorio

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) is now holding back his own Saipan casino initiative and is instead supporting the Fitial administration-backed initiative to avoid confusion among voters and in the spirit of cooperation. If the initiative gathers 2,500 to 2,700 signatures, the question of having a casino industry on Saipan would be placed on the Nov. 6 ballot.

See FROILAN on Page 4

HIGHER POWER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Lee Roy Greenman cuts tree branches in front of the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill yesterday, to help prevent them from falling over live wires that could result in an accident. CUC is raising yet again its levelized energy adjustment charge, or LEAC, by $0.0236 per kilowatt-hour next week as a result of a spike in world oil prices.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

In observance of Good Friday, *Saipan Tribune* will not be published on April 7, 2012, Black Saturday. The next issue will be published on April 9, 2012.

Local

Spring Fling
Double Deals!
FEEL THE LOVE WITH 2 ANDROID PHONES FOR THE PRICE OF 1.
Clear 500 Plan
500 Local Min.
Unliimited Local Text
+MAX Data
$33.50
per month
SAMSUNG
SAMSUNG GALAXY Y
Buy 1 Get 1 Free
• 3" Touchscreen
• 2MP Camera
•Android 2.3 Gingerbread
$129
NTT docomo
DOCOMO PACIFIC
483-CARE | Gualo Rai
CNMI's most powerful GSM network. Islandwide. Worldwide.
www.docomopacific.com
Minimum 24-month voice and max data plan required for all handsets. Visit stores for additional details, while supplies last. Some conditions apply.

No talks yet about possible extension of IPS' contract

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration has not yet to decide whether or not to extend the ARRA management contract it awarded to former Commerce secretary Michael Ada's Integrated Professional Solutions, just a few days before the contract's April 15 expiration.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the ongoing contract was executed for 18 months with a specific funding source for the stated period.

"At the completion of the contract, a thorough review of the contract deliverables will be conducted," he said.

Demapan said "to date, there has been no discussion about a contract extension."

With the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program winding down, the CNMI has yet to spend some $34 million of $119 million awarded it as of Dec. 31, 2011. The CNMI has the least ARRA funding received among U.S. states and territories.

Recovery.gov data shows that the CNMI was awarded $119 million from Feb. 17, 2009, through Dec. 30, 2011. Of this amount, over $85 million has been spent and $34 million more has yet to be spent or drawn down.

As of yesterday, it's not known how much exactly in ARRA money has been managed by IPS.

Based on IPS' contract and the attachments, Ada's firm was to get an advance payment of $78,418 upon completion of all contract signatures.

The firm will then get paid $15,260 every month starting on Nov. 15, 2010 until April 15, 2012. Upon contract completion, the company will get $39,240.

The contract award triggered a barrage of criticism over the appropriateness and fairness of such sole-source contract award amounting to almost $400,000, considering that the administration had already planned to award the contract even before Ada stepped down as Commerce secretary. It had been investigated by local and federal agencies.

Retirement Fund denies credit union's request for refinancing

The NMI Retirement Fund has denied the refinancing request of the Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union, which had sought a $500,000 loan.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Fund made the decision after an executive session at its March 8 meeting.

The union had asked the Fund in December 2011 for an additional $500,000 loan on top of its existing loan to be able to expand its services to clients. The requested amount was asked to be assigned a lower interest rate.

The union specifically asked an interest rate of 5 percent for another 30-year term, with $500,000 new funds to be added to the original loan.

But due to the lack of other important details and information about the union's financial standing, the board deferred taking action on this matter until a decision was reached last month.

Saipan Tribune learned that acting Fund administrator Esther Ada wrote to the union on March 26 about the board's decision and informed the union about its delinquent payment for the original loan, reflecting seven months past due amounting to $105,000.

Ada confirmed yesterday that she sent the letter to the union.

The union pays the pension agency roughly $10,000 monthly for its original $2 million loan. At present, more than half of the obligation has been fulfilled. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

PSS to enforce unified security protocols in school campuses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System will soon enforce a uniform security protocol in all its 19 campuses to minimize, if not prevent, burglaries and break-ins, according to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan yesterday.

Sablan made this decision in consultation with her leadership team and school principals who were all asked how they want to better safeguard their campuses and students.

Garapan Elementary School fell victim to burglars twice last week, resulting in the loss of thousands of dollars worth of school equipment and properties.

Sablan said the system cannot tolerate further incidents like these, particularly since public schools are working so hard to provide these equipment and technologies to students.

Sablan declined to elaborate on the new security measures, saying a final plan is being worked out but hinted that PSS will revisit all standard security operating procedures.

"We are putting together a standard operating procedure that would set our expectations from security companies because we do know that there's always a risk. We just cannot tolerate any kind of mishap in our school campuses because it's so difficult now to replace a computer, a printer and even paint our schools," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan acknowledged that they don't have many security aides in school but she believes that security risks can be averted through "effective, efficient, and high standard safeguard procedures."

According to PSS associate commissioner for administration Glenn Muña, security services in each school are usually decided by their respective principal, based on the school's population. This means that individual schools have separate contracting agreements with security companies that they choose. Funding for this purpose is incorporated in the per-school operational budget from the local government, which Muña described as "very limited."

Public schools have been a favorite target of burglars on island, with computers and laptops proving to be irresistible magnets for these crimes.

Among these incidents was in the summer of 2009 when three public schools—San Vicente Elementary School, Marianas High School, and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School—were burglarized, losing thousands of dollars worth of computers.

In 2008, Dandan and Tanapag elementary schools also lost some computers, laptops, and aircon to culprits.

In November 2008, MHS security aide Efren Ballesteros was bludgeoned to death by burglars inside the campus.

In 2005, Koblerville Elementary School also fell victim to burglars. And who can forget the break-in at Kagman High School where its Environmental Science and Oceanography room was deliberately set on fire, losing over $50,000 worth of computers. William S. Reyes Elementary, Koblerville Elementary, and Dandan Elementary also were victims of burglaries in 2002.

Happy Easter!
From the Staff and Management of McDonald's
i'm lovin' it
STORE HOURS: Chalan Pale Arnold Road: 6:30 AM to 10:00 PM • Garapan Express: OPEN 24 HRS. DAILY (24/7)
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel. 235-8761 - Fax. 235-8760 • E-mail: mcdonalds@pticom.com

Easter Sunday & Kid's Egg Hunt
@ the Grand Hotel
Happy Easter !
SPECIAL EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH
@ AOI Restaurant
$25
AOI
RESTAURANT
Sashimi, Sushi, Tempura, Roast Pig,
Lamb Leg, Glazed Ham Leg and more
Free flow of draft beer, champagne, wine,
iced tea, juice.
LOTS OF GAMES & PRIZES TO WIN!!!
April 8, 2012
Please call 234 6601ext. 301-302 or 285 6616
Another exciting offer from the grand!
Child 4 - 11 yrs old 50% OFF
Special local discount 10% OFF
Senior citizen discount 20% OFF
VIP card discount 20% OFF
SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
A TanHoldings Company

PROBE INTO APPLICATION FOR US PASSPORTS

Man poses as father of brother's child

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents arrested yesterday a man who allegedly lied in an application for a U.S. passport for his nephew.

Zhenyan Cheng, a Chinese national, allegedly posed as the father of his brother's child. Cheng's brother, Xigao Cheng, departed the CNMI for China on Sept. 16, 2011, and has not since returned to the Commonwealth, according to ICE special agent Ryan K. Faulkner.

Cheng appeared with court-appointed counsel, Bruce Berline at yesterday's initial appearance hearing. The preliminary and detention hearings were scheduled for Thursday, April 12, at 3pm.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona remanded Cheng to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Special agent Faulkner stated in an affidavit that, on March 29, 2012 at 9:50am, Homeland Security Investigation agents were conducting a surveillance of a car.

Faulkner said the agents observed Cheng and a woman, later identified as Aifang Ye, as they exited the vehicle in Garapan. Cheng was observed carrying an infant child.

Faulkner said they approached Ye and Cheng and identified themselves as federal agents.

As he was talking with the driver, Faulkner said he observed two Chinese passports on the front passenger seat. Finding it odd that a single person would be in possession of more than one passport, Faulkner asked the driver who owned the passports. The driver pointed to his passengers—Ye and Cheng—whom he had just dropped off. The driver later disclosed that he had just brought the two from the Saipan Passport Office, where they applied for a U.S. passport.

Special agent Michael Lansangan asked Ye and Cheng for any form of identification. Both replied that their identification documents were in a room at the Summer Holiday Hotel.

At the hotel, Cheng got his Chinese passport and showed it to Lansangan, who expressed himself satisfied that the passport belonged to Cheng, who has current conditional parole, giving him immigration status.

Faulkner informed Lansangan that he was in possession of two Chinese passports bearing the names of Xigao Cheng and Ye.

Faulkner said that based on the information contained in the passports, they determined that both Xigao Cheng and Ye had expired conditional parole and did not have status to be in the United States.

Using the driver as translator, Faulkner said he asked Ye who Xigao Cheng was. Ye told Faulkner that he was holding the passport of her husband (Xigao Cheng), who had gone back to China on Sept. 16, 2011. Ye claimed that her husband mailed his Chinese passport to her on Saipan so that she could use it in listing him as the child's father in obtaining a China Travel Document from the Chinese Consulate in the U.S.

Ye further explained that Xigao Cheng and Zhenyan Cheng are bothers.

Faulkner said he contacted the Diplomatic Security Service on suspicion that Cheng may have passed himself off as his brother Xigao Cheng during the application process for the U.S. passport.

Faulkner said that on Wednesday, the Diplomatic Security Service provided him a photocopy of an application for a U.S. passport, along with a CNMI birth certificate in the name of Jessie Junle Cheng.

Faulkner said an examination of these documents revealed that Ye and Xigao Cheng are listed as the birth parents of the child.

Faulkner said he and Lansangan talked with a U.S. passport agent on Wednesday at the Saipan Passport Office. The passport agent explained that when both biological parents are listed on a birth certificate, it is a requirement that both parents are present during the application process.

The passport agent told the special agents that, on March 29, 2012, she verbally administered the oath to both Ye and the man whom she believed to be Xigao Cheng.

The passport agent said that Xigao Cheng bore a similar physical resemblance to the defendant so she did not question his true identity.

Faulkner said during their interview with the driver on Wednesday, the driver admitted that when they left the Saipan Passport Office, he asked Cheng if he was the baby's father. According to the driver, the defendant confessed that his brother, Xigao Cheng, is in fact the father of the child, Faulkner said.

The driver told the special agents that he knew that a crime was committed but was reluctant to report this to law enforcement.

FROILAN

From Page 1

"I decide to endorse the casino initiative that the administration helped draft," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

He said he's disappointed to learn that the administration was coming out with its version of the initiative different from his own, which he thinks is a "better" one.

"But I don't think it's a good idea to have two casino initiatives, that's why I'm holding back my own," said Tenorio, who has already signed the administration-supported initiative.

Tenorio said, however, that he would launch his own initiative if and when he sees that the Fitial administration-backed initiative won't be able to muster enough votes to be placed on the ballot.

Pro-casino individuals led by retiree Dr. Jack Angello began a campaign to start gathering signatures to ensure that the Saipan casino initiative backed by the Fitial administration will be on the ballot.

Tenorio, a former governor and speaker, earlier raised concerns about the Fital administration initiative, including its $5 million license fee that Tenorio said is not enough to help restore 80 work hours and save the Retirement Fund. Tenorio wanted a $10 million casino license fee.

His initiative would have also revived the earned income tax credit, which was scrapped in the late '90s as part of efforts to reduce the CNMI government's financial obligations.

Angello, in a separate interview yesterday, said he appreciates the former governor's support of what he calls a "people's initiative."

"So we want the public to know that there's only one casino initiative, which was put together based on the six public hearings and comments from businesses and outside experts. We would like to thank the support of the governor and the lieutenant governor, the House and senators [Pete] Reyes and [Luis] Crisostimo. We also thank those who have already signed it and encourage others to sign it too," he said.

In about two weeks, there will be another gathering at the Carolinian Utt where community members can sign the petition.

Angello said at the time, they would have preliminary data as to the number of signatures so far gathered to be able to put the question on the ballot. He said they need 2,500 to 2,700 signatures.

SURTAX

From Page 1

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), the bill's author, said yesterday the projected $9.2 million additional revenue for Saipan would help restore the government's work hours to 80 biweekly instead of the current 64 hours.

He said the government cannot rely on the casino initiative alone to help restore work hours, save the Retirement Fund, and fund others programs and services.

"I want to put it on the table for discussion. We will seek input from members, the business community, and the general public," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at his office yesterday.

The Fitial administration projected that the gross revenue tax for fiscal year 2012 alone would generate some $46 million.

"Due to the change in economic conditions over the years, it is reasonable to increase the gross revenue tax. By imposing the increase as local 1-percent surtax, there is greater assurance that the increased revenues will be used to benefit the residents of [Saipan]," Torres states in his House Local Bill 17-74, which he will introduce during Monday's session.

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said he has yet to see the new local bill but would like to know where the proposed additional collection would go and whether it would be accounted for.

Brennan said he supports the government going back to 80 hours and having a solid Retirement Fund, among other things, but businesses would like the government to account for every dollar they collect from taxes and fees.

He said the government does not account for a lot of public funds, including those so-called discretionary funds.

"I just don't see the fiduciary responsibility of the CNMI government," he said.

Brennan said actual collection could be much less than the projected $9.2 million if businesses that are already struggling to survive to begin with are forced to shut down because of additional taxation and would therefore not be able to pay such a tax.

The Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the CNMI, is generally opposed to additional taxation.

For years, the Chamber has been telling lawmakers that imposing tax and fee increases without plans to cut government employment numbers "is to ask businesses and individual taxpayers to dig deeper into their pockets to allow government to continue employing and spending as usual."

Brennan has also urged Chamber members to pay particular attention to one particular legislation being reviewed by the Government Relations Committee, House Bill 17-238, which gives the Legislature the authority over utility rates for residential customers.

"If that isn't enough to scare you into participating in a committee, nothing will," Brennan said. "I say this because the incredible volume of proposed legislation that gets pumped out is mind numbing, almost as if there was a contest to see who can produce the greatest number of bills, without regard to the quality."

He said in reality, some of the legislation are good and some are so far "off the wall it is unbelievable."

"Either way, the more minds SCC can garner to review it and offer suggestions for improvement, the better the result will be," he said.

GOP

From Page 1

bune, when asked for comment yesterday.

Gonzales addressed some 100 Republican members and officers during Wednesday night's meeting at the governor's private residence in Gualo Rai, party members said yesterday.

He is expected to announce his official response on or before next Wednesday's meeting of the Republican Party, also at the governor's house.

Once he officially confirms his acceptance of GOP's offer, Gonzales will only be the second candidate for the post; the first is Sablan, who is seeking a third term.

Sablan, when asked for comment yesterday, said, "This is our democratic process and it is a good process because elections give people a choice."

"So it doesn't change anything for me because I am not going to be running against anyone. I am running so I can continue the work we have been doing for our people and our Northern Mariana Islands," Sablan said.

Sablan, who is currently on Saipan, said he is "grateful to our people for the opportunity to have served them in Congress for two terms and I ask the people for their continuing support. But, as always, I will put my complete trust in our people to decide who can represent us best in Washington."

Fitial, chairman of the Republican Party, wants Sablan, an independent aligned with the Democratic Party in Congress, to be replaced by a Republican from the CNMI. Fitial and Sablan don't see eye-to-eye on a host of issues.

GOP fundraising chair Juan Reyes said Gonzales "has got the best chance to beat Kilili."

"If you look at the 2008 results, the vote difference was not that much. And at the time, many Republicans backed Kilili; this time, they will support Bolis. He is 90 percent likely to accept the nomination," Reyes said in a phone interview.

In the historic 2008 delegate election, Sablan got 2,474 or 23 percent of the total votes cast, followed by former CNMI resident representative to Washington, D.C. Pete A. Tenorio who received 2,117. Gonzales came in third with 1,855 votes.

Ramon Salas, GOP treasurer, separately said, "Everybody was upbeat and happy that we finally got a candidate although still unofficially because he has yet to confirm."

"He said he will still talk to his family, relatives and supporters. I personally believe that Gonzales will accept the nomination, but he wants to make the confirmation after Holy Week," Salas said.

The CNMI is the last U.S. jurisdiction to get congressional representation, albeit a nonvoting member of the U.S. House of Representatives, as a result of a law that President Bush signed on May 9, 2008, when President Bush signed a law that also allowed Washington to take over labor and immigration controls in the Commonwealth.

National convention

The Republican Party also completed its recount of the votes cast for the six of nine delegates to the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Florida in August.

The six who will help represent the CNMI in the RNC are, from the most vote-getter to the least: Efren M. Atalig of Rota; Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair and businessman Joe Lifoifoi; Zoning Board member and GPPC business development manager Diego Blanco; GOP fundraising chair Juan Reyes; Jack Ogumoro; and GOP treasurer Ramon Salas.

They will join Fitial as party president, national committeeman Bo Palacios, and national committeewoman Viola Alepuyo to the national convention.

Reyes said all the delegates to the national convention will pay for their own airfare, accommodation, and all other expenses, which could total at least $5,000.

"But it's all worth it, knowing that we will get to choose a presidential candidate. If a Republican candidate wins, we will already have a direct connection with the Republicans there, that's why it's important that our own delegate to Congress is a Republican," said Reyes, a former Public Works secretary.

The voting was held during a March 10 caucus wherein CNMI Republicans also picked Mitt Romney among four Republican presidential candidates.

Romney picked nine delegates from the CNMI, all vowing to vote for him during the national convention in Tampa, Florida.

Hundreds expected to trek up Mt. Tapochao today

Thousands of Catholic faithful in the CNMI are expected to reflect on Christ's death today in observance of Good Friday.

Good Friday is part of the Holy Week celebration, which begins with Palm Sunday that commemorates Christ's entry into Jerusalem.

On Saipan, the trek to Mt. Tapochao, the highest point on the island, has become part of the Good Friday tradition.

The annual pilgrimage is highlighted by the carrying of a wooden cross to the peak of Mt. Tapochao by a group of male devotees, to commemorate Christ's passion.

Several organizations have already set up their tents along the trek path as early as Thursday night to assist hikers by providing them with refreshments.

Yesterday, which was Maundy or Holy Thursday, Catholic churches portrayed the washing of the feet of the 12 apostles.

The weeklong Catholic celebration will culminate on Easter Sunday, which honors Christ's resurrection. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Zoning board re-elects officers

Zoning Board officers will continue to serve under the same capacity after deciding to maintain the status quo during Wednesday's meeting at the Zoning Office.

The officers are chair Diego C. Blanco, vice chair Joe T Limes, secretary Ed Arriola, Jr., and treasurer Alice S. Igitol.

Except for Arriola, all three were present at the meeting, along with board member Herman P. Sablan.

Legal counsel Kate Fuller noted at the meeting that the election of officers should have been conducted last December.

The board maintained that all officers are doing their jobs well, making them deserving to continue to hold on to their positions.

"Thank you very much for your vote of confidence," added Blanco.

The board is now working on getting their proposed amendments for the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 approved.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Zoning board officers smile for the camera before going into executive session during their board meeting last Wednesday. From left, member Herman P. Sablan, chair Diego C. Blanco, treasurer Alice S. Igitol, and vice chair Joe T. Limes. Not in photo is secretary Ed Arriola, Jr.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed last March 22 House Local Bill 17-26, authored by Rep. Stanley Torres. That bill sought to make massive changes in the law that were inconsistent with sound zoning principles, according to the Zoning board and office. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

We want to
BUY USED PIANO
285-6000/Mrs. Kim

Royal Thai Massage
Spring Special
$15.00 1 hour of full body massage
Promo is only valid for two (2) or more customers at a time.
$25.00 1.5 hours
$30.00 2 hours
Open Daily from 10am to 11pm
Tel: 234-2521
1st Floor, Saipan Gold beach Hotel (Beach Road, Garapan)

INCOME TAX RETURN
(Deadline 4/15/12)
We accept Tax Preparation
Minimum charge of $10.00
We also do Notary Public
Open Monday to Friday, 8am-12pm, 1pm-5pm
TBK DOCUMENT HANDLING
2nd floor of Dallar Days (Garapan) across Rainbow Color - Tel#233-2288

YTT GOLD Jewelry 元通金行
Easter Special SALE
20%-50% OFF
Selected Items Only
We have 14k, 18k, 24k
• Gemstones • Pearl • Jade
• Necklace/Pendant • Bracelets • Earrings • Bangles • Wedding Bands
WEDDING RING SET PROMO
European & Japanese Design
(Over 300 kinds of style/selection)
We buy gold and we do pawn service.
YTT Gold holds Diamond & Diamond Grading Certificate
Friendly and trained staff
Good reputation • Since 1989
Tel. No.: 233-2368
Business Hours
10:00am - 8:00pm • Sunday Closed
GARAPAN, BEACH ROAD
HARD ROCK CAFE | DFS GALERIA | CAR PARK | STAR SANDS PLAZA
D'ELEGANCE CAFE | CAR PARK | GOLD
Located behind Duty Free and Star Sands Plaza

IT&E DSL Bundle
Value • Speed • Everything You Need
Nitro DSL Up to 768 kbps download
Home Phone
Mobile Phone 500 Minutes of Local Voice
Download Softwares, Music , Movies and Play Games Online.
ONLY $99* PER MONTH
ADD ON UNLIMITED ANDROID DATA FOR ONLY $20*
ALSO AVAILABLE | SuperCharge Speed (Up to 1.0 Mbps for additional $35) | TurboCharge Speed (Up to 1.5 Mbps for additional $85)
Experience the CNMI's #1 Network
*Some conditions apply • Modem w/built in Wireless Router @ $12 a month (Rental)
IT&E Life in Motion
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

Teen in house burglary gets 4 months in prison

A teenager who was one of two that broke into a house in Kagman III and stole several items pleaded guilty Wednesday and was ordered to spend four months in prison.

Felix Muna Kileleman, 18, pleaded guilty to criminal mischief as part of a plea deal and was sentenced to a year in prison, all suspended except for four months, with credit for the 16 days he has already served in jail.

Kileleman will start serving his sentence on April 16, 2012. He will then be placed on probation for three years once he gets out.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman required Kileleman to pay restitution for the items taken that were not recovered in an amount to be determined at a later hearing. Kileleman was also directed to pay a $200 fine, $25 court assessment fee, plus probation fee, and to perform 50 hours of community service.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Kileleman with five counts of criminal conduct, including the pleaded offense of criminal mischief.

According to the plea deal, on Jan. 17, 2012 on Saipan, Kileleman damaged the screen window of the victim's house when he illegally entered it with the intent to commit theft.

Police arrested Kileleman and John Ilo Jr., 23, two days after the burglary.

Police detective Jeffrey Norita stated in his report that two police officers responded to a residence in Kagman III on Jan. 17, 2012, at 11:06pm, where a burglary had occurred. The house's owner told officers that a witness saw two persons leaving the place earlier, carrying two duffle bags. She identified them as Ilo and Kileleman.

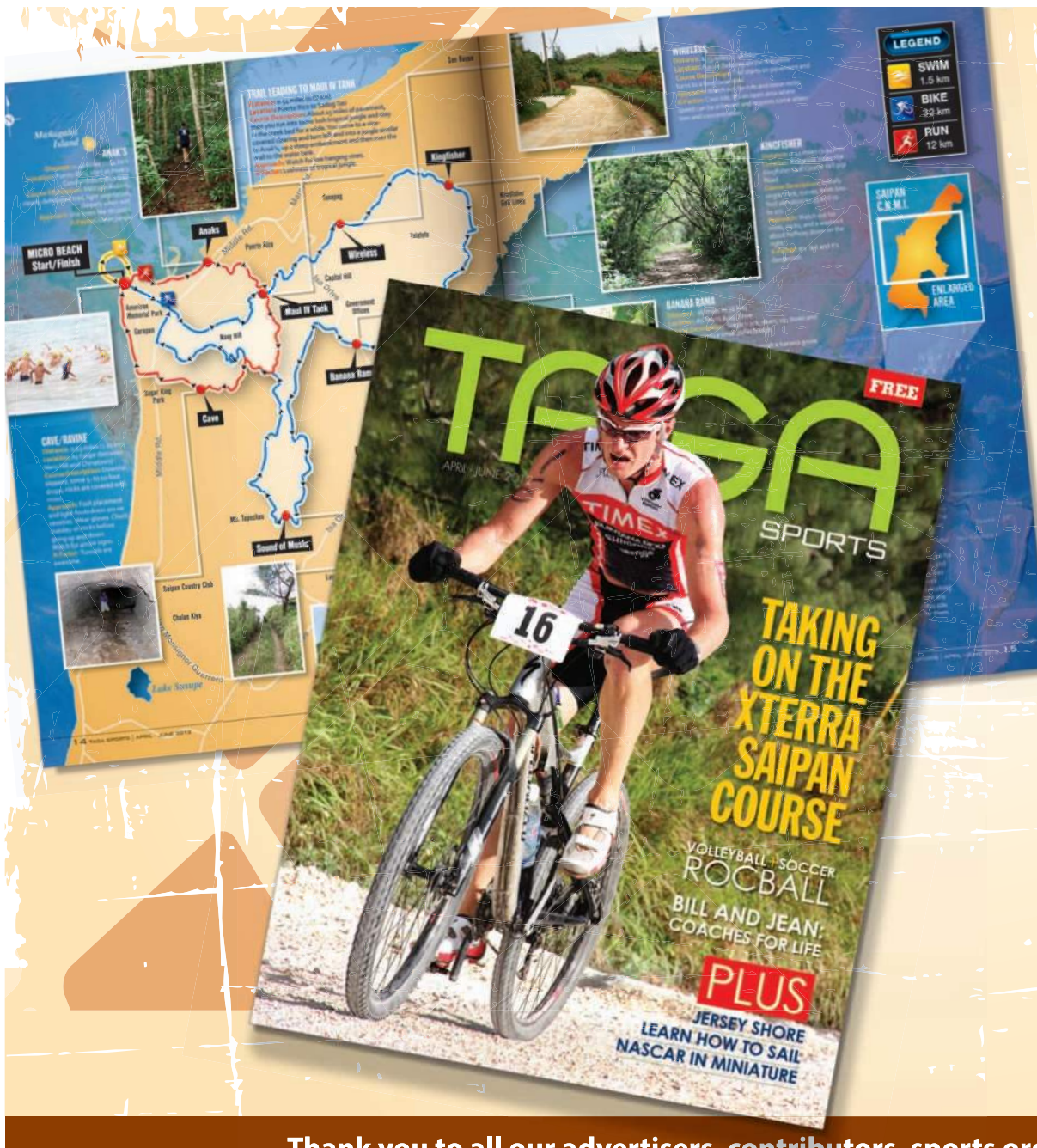
The two officers later proceeded to Kileleman's residence in Kagman where they met the two suspects. Upon questioning by the officers, the suspects allegedly confessed they were the ones who burglarized the victim's house.

A crime scene technician returned some of the recovered items, but still missing at the time were a small bolt cutter, a wedding ring, 10 Gerber knives, and three folding chairs, all valued at $1,510.

Kileleman was represented by attorney Mark Hanson. Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll represented the government.

The case against Ilo remains pending. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Don't gamble with your health.
Secondhand smoke is proven to increase the risk of cancer and heart disease in nonsmokers.
CNMI Public Law 16-46 "Smoke Free Air Act of 2008" states that smoking is not allowed in all poker rooms and establishments.
Thank you for not smoking.
i ♥ my tobacco-free cnmi
DPH-COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER
Tel: (670) 323-6560/61
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Established October 2011
For more information or to help us enforce Public Law 16-46, please call the Quit Tobacco Hotline at 323-7848 (QUIT).
This advertisement is made possible by the US Department of Health and Human Services for the CNMI Tobacco Prevention and Control Program under the Community Guidance Center Prevention Office.



Get your FREE copy of

TAGA SPORTS

APRIL - JUNE 2012 EDITION
AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

99 Cents, Asin Fish Market, Best Seller, Capital Hill Market, Capricciosa, CHC Gift Shop, Ebisuya, Garapan Market, EZ Mart, Gold Ribbon, Grace Market, Han Nam, Happy Market (As Lito & Garapan), Himawari, I-Mart, Jin Market, Joeten (Dandan, Garapan, Kagman & Susupe), Joeten Kiyu Library, Kagman Market, Martha's Store, Mobil (Chalan Piao, Chalan Kiya, Kagman, Middle Road & Susupe), Payless Supermarket, San Antonio Supermarket, San Jose Market, San Roque Market, Sara Market, Shell (Airport, Dandan, Gualo Rai, Highway Express, Koblerville, Puerto Rico, San Roque & Susupe), Shirley's Coffee Shop (Garapan & Susupe), Super Fresh Market, Tony Roma's, Twins Supermaket (Dandan & Puerto Rico), and New XO Market.

Thank you to all our advertisers, contributors, sports organizations, and sports personalities.

All is set for 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Off-island delegates will be joining local traditional and performing artists for the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival on April 20 to 22.

Performing groups Off Limitz from Rota and Man Atungo from Guam will also be part of the entertainment at the three-day event that will be held at the Civic Center Park in Susupe.

The festival committee also expecting a delegation from Chuuk, composed of two traditional artists and government officials.

"The success of the Flame Tree Arts Festival in the previous years has encouraged off-island delegates and representatives to accept our invitation to them and take part in the biggest arts event in our Commonwealth," said Welcoming Committee chair Remy Buniag.

The delegates from Rota, Guam, and Chuuk will be paying for their own airfare and accommodations or through generous sponsors who have agreed to pay for their expenses, said overall festival committee chair Parker Y. Yobei.

The festival's entertainment lineup also features local acts, including the Pua Hinano, Tiivi Mori Olomwaay Band, Tipiyeew Warriors, Alan Ia, Maluw Band, Island Warriors, and the Inatua Dancers.

Other festival regulars are also geared to showcase their talents: the Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts, Rose Dance School, Umang Glee Club, and the Saipan Awaodori Team, which will perform with visiting Japanese Awaodori dancers.

The award-winning Manta Ray Band of Saipan Southern High School will serve as the opening act during the opening ceremony on April 21, the second day of the festival.

Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog encouraged the community to join the festival committee in welcoming the off-island guests for the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival by demonstrating warm island hospitality during their stay.

"We hope that the public will enjoy our entertainment lineup and delight in the wide selection of works of art from traditional and contemporary artists in the Pacific," added Hocog.

For more information, visit the Arts Council next to the post office on Capital Hill or call 322-9982 or 83.

JKPL applies for $30K grant

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library recently applied for a grant that seeks to augment limited local funding for "critically needed" library services, particularly for underserved villages on island.

Executive director John Gonzales said Wednesday that they submitted their application for the 2012 Library Services and Technology Act Competitive Grant for the Pacific called "JKPL Bookmobile & Internet Library Outreach Service."

"JKPL Bookmobile & Internet Library Outreach Service aims to develop new and strengthen existing public and private partnerships with other agencies and community-based organizations in order to expand services for early learning and provide underserved individuals access to information and educational resources offsite in outlying rural areas with limited functional literacy or information skills and with limited or no access to transportation," reads the project design of the grant application.

Gonzales said the $30,000 grant, if approved, will pay for two part-time outreach staff, a few hours for a supervisor, and for books that will be given to book clubs in various schools.

"This grant will continue to valuably augment dwindling local resources in order to strengthen and preserve our library outreach services," Gonzales told *Saipan Tribune* via email.

According to Gonzales, there is a possibility to access more than $30,000 if grant funds become available, which was the case in 2009 when they received almost $65,000, double the original grant amount.

"We expect to find out the award in the summer 2012," he added.

In their grant application, JKPL expounded on how the CNMI's state library continues to face challenges through anticipated budget cuts as the local economy continues to decline, putting the delivery of library outreach services at risk.

MHS class welcomes MTEC

The Marianas High School's Hospitality & Tourism Class welcomed the Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority this week for a classroom dialogue on tourism.

MTEC chair Vicky Benavente led presentations to two classes on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 3 and 4, where MTEC talked with the students on the industry, including why visitors travel to the Northern Marianas and what more can be done—individually and organizationally—to improve the visitor experience.

"These kids are sharp. They understand the importance of the industry," said Benavente. "We hope our presentation will spark new awareness and new ideas for them this year, both in and outside the classroom."

Teacher Tyce Mister thanked MTEC for approaching the class about making the presentation.

"It reaffirmed topics we have brought up in class and brought up new ideas, too," said Mister. "All good stuff!"

MTEC will continue its educational presentations to junior and senior high schools for the rest of the semester. The council is a non-profit organization aimed at educating the public on the importance of the tourism industry. Membership is open to all interested individuals. ***(MVA)***

MVA

Vincent L. Muna, a 10th grader with the Marianas High Hospitality & Tourism class wins a gift certificate from the Marianas Tourism Education Council on April 4, 2012, for correctly identifying the approximate number of visitors to the Northern Marianas last year and the islands' largest tourism market.

Congressional Art Competition

U.S. House of Representatives

Office of
Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

2012 Congressional Art Competition - Northern Mariana Islands

Official Guidelines

The competition is open to students grades 9 through 12 in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Artwork submitted must meet the following requirements in order to fit in the exhibit space at the U.S. Capitol:

- Artwork must be two dimensional.
- Dimensions cannot exceed 28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, inclusive of the frame.
- Weight cannot exceed 15 lbs.
- Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate any U.S. Copyright laws. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo (not the student's own), painting, graphic, advertisement, or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted. Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of a painting or drawing).
- Artwork will hang in the Capitol for the entire year of the exhibition and cannot be returned earlier. Students should, therefore, submit work they will not need for other purposes during that time period.

- Accepted media are:
  - Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
  - Drawings: pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal ink, markers
  - Collage: must be two dimensional
  - Paints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
  - Mixed media: use of more than two media, such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc
  - Computer-generated art
  - Photography

Artwork must be submitted no later than
Friday, April 13, 2012

Entries can be hand-delivered or mailed to the congressional offices on Rota and Tinian, which are open Monday to Friday, from 8:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Saipan, which is also open on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Rota Office
Songsong Village
P.O. Box 1361
Rota, MP 96951
Phone: (670) 532-2647

Tinian Office
San Jose
General Delivery
Tinian, MP 96952
Phone: (670) 433-2647

Saipan Office
JCT II Building, Susupe
P.O. Box 504879
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 323-2647/8

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayers expense.

Bill to create Fund task force in the offing

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A special task force for the NMI Retirement Fund will soon be formed to immediately work on finding solutions to the present crisis buffeting the pension agency.

Oscar Camacho, director of the Commonwealth Retirees Association, told the Fund board Wednesday that the association has already received assurances from Gov. Benigno R. Fitial that he will sign the bill into law as soon as it is transmitted to his office.

Camacho said that CRA chair Larry Cabrera and Fitial met early this week and discussed possible remedies for the pension program's woes.

According to experts, the Fund is projected to collapse in less than three years without the infusion of new cash and with the same level of expenditures.

As of February this year, the Fund's investment portfolio—from which it draws pension funds—had an estimated value of $253 million, while its accrued unfunded liability is now over $900 million.

» CRA receives assurance governor will sign it into law

Camacho revealed that a bill proposing the creation of a task force for the Fund is being drafted and will soon be introduced at the House of Representatives. He said that CRA chair Cabrera is also working closely with House Speaker Eli Cabrera on the specifics of the bill pursuant to the recommendation of Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo.

Govendo earlier ruled that he cannot order a cut in the Fund members' benefits because he believes that the court is not in a position to be doing so, since that authority lies with the pension agency's board of trustees and the Legislature. Instead, the judge recommended several ways to save the pension program, one of which is the establishment of a special task force.

Camacho said the task force will work within 90 days to come up with concrete plans on how to save the Fund.

At present, there is a special task force created by the Senate that is working on pending legislation that will impact the Retirement Fund. Prior to this, some committees have been also formed to help address the Fund's problems.

"I don't know if this new one [task force] would really help, but I have to have some faith that something has to work," said Camacho.

When asked by board on the focal point of the task force, he said the solution may be to float a bond for the Fund. "I don't think it will be on the reduction of member's benefits, but more on floating a bond that retirees will have to pay [through taxes on their income]," Camacho told the board.

US envoy meets NMI delegation

U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul met briefly with the Northern Mariana Islands delegation to last month's Moscow International Travel & Tourism Exhibition, bringing attention to this U.S. aligned Commonwealth that welcomes Russian visitors without the usual U.S. visa requirements.

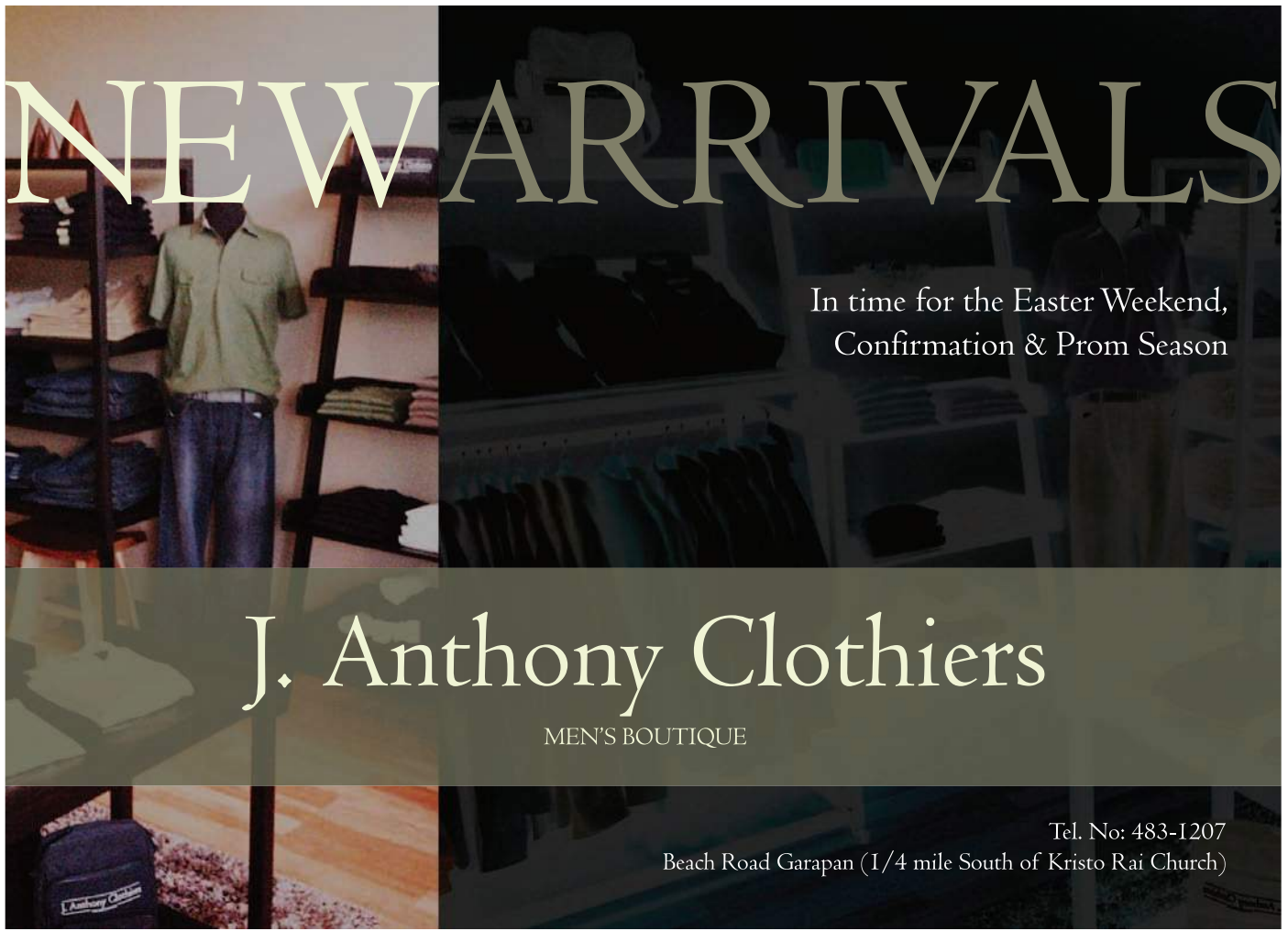
During his one-hour visit to the travel fair on March 22, 2012, McFaul visited the Northern Marianas destination presentation to potential travelers, media, and travel representatives. He also stopped by the NMI and Guam exhibition booth, where a gift was presented to him by Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio.

"As a U.S. Commonwealth, the Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota continue to welcome Russian visitors each year without requiring a visa, and we were very pleased to share what we have to offer potential visitors with Ambassador McFaul," said Tenorio. "We look forward to welcoming even more Russians to our western Pacific paradise this year."

The MVA has supported a number of familiarization tours by Russian travel agents and media over the last few years, underscoring the growing interest in this beach resort destination among Russians, Kazakhstanis (Kazakhs) and visitors from other former Soviet states. ***(MVA)***

MVA

U.S. Ambassador Michael McFaul, right, receives a gift from Perry Tenorio, managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority, at the 2012 Moscow International Travel & Tourism Exhibition on March 22, 2012. The U.S. Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in the western Pacific welcome thousands of Russian visitors each year, visa-free.


NEW ARRIVALS
In time for the Easter Weekend,
Confirmation & Prom Season
J. Anthony Clothiers
MEN'S BOUTIQUE
Tel. No: 483-1207
Beach Road Garapan (1/4 mile South of Kristo Rai Church)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 6, 2000

Teno: Leave CIP plan intact
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has prodded lawmakers not to switch capital improvement projects listed under the Section 702 Covenant infrastructure program with other pet projects in order to maintain the integrity of the master plan drawn up by his administration. "As we continue to move projects efficiently and progressively throughout this fiscal year, I ask for your continued commitment in maintaining the integrity of our CIP Projects Plan," he said in a letter to presiding officers of the Legislature. "Any unconsidered changes would compromise the integrity of the CIP Plan and the effective application of our limited resources to the CNMI as a whole," added the governor.

CPA moves to get China Eastern Air into Saipan
In fresh efforts to assist in the recovery of the islands' travel sector, the Commonwealth Ports Authority is taking aggressive steps to fast-track the provision of flight services by China Eastern Airlines between Shanghai and Saipan. In a letter to George Wellington, chief of the foreign carrier licensing division of the United States Department of Transportation, CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said air transportation service to Saipan has dwindled due to the reduction of direct flights from international destinations. Mr. Salas underscored the need to fast-track the realization of China Eastern's proposed direct regular flights between Shanghai and Saipan since CNMI's economy is heavily dependent on the tourism industry.

Apr. 6, 2001

CPA probe on jet fuel leak nears completion
Reflecting its strong commitment to environmental protection, the Commonwealth Ports Authority is drawing near to the completion of its investigation on the jet fuel leak at the Saipan International Airport. CPA said Allied Pacific Environmental Consulting, which it contracted to conduct investigation and remediation works, is about 75 percent finished with the investigative phase of the project. APEC has started the remediation phase, which consists of construction of Soil Vapor Extraction system to remove jet fuel vapors, according to the ports authority.

DLNR: Grazers derail government projects
The continued refusal of ranchers to vacate identified areas designated for the proposed Saipan Upland Mitigation Bank hampers the implementation of significant projects in the Commonwealth. Aside from developmental projects, the CNMI continues to hold off on the signing of the mitigation agreement with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, a contract which has been in the can for more than three years now. But Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Joaquin Tenorio remains hopeful current problems surrounding the project will be resolved in due time despite criticisms hurled by the Legislature that nothing has been done to address existing concerns.

Apr. 6, 2003

Bill seeks to regulate 'shobais'
Rep. Arnold I. Palacios introduced Thursday legislation that intends to regulate "shobais" or freelance commercial activities that have emerged as a nuisance to tourists. The bill, dubbed the Beachside Revitalization Act of 2003, is in response to concerns that the shobai phenomenon has been steadily increasing in number, particularly on Saipan beachfronts. The Marianas Visitors Authority, in a recent meeting with House members, confirmed that shobai activities have existed for many years, adding that there is an inverse proportion to the CNMI tourist arrival figures versus the number of beachside concessionaires that have surfaced.

Pete A. donates to NMI mock trial team
Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio donated 15 lapel pins bearing the CNMI and U.S. Flags to the CNMI Mock Trial Team represented by Tinian High School. The 20th National High Schools Mock Trial Championship will be held from May 8-10, 2003 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Traditionally, pins bearing state flags are traded among students, and this is the very first year that the CNMI Mock Trial Team will be equipped with lapel pins for the traditional exchange. "I am very proud of the determination of our students from Tinian, who once again have won the CNMI-wide Mock Trial Competition, and who would represent the CNMI with pride in the national competition," Tenorio said.

TOHA SUPER MARKET

April Spring Sale

7:00AM - 11:00 PM (MON-SUN)

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
WE ACCEPT BANK OF GUAM PACIFIC EXPRESS

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMP

Lotus Rice 50lbs. $25.99
P.R. Jasmin Rice 20kg. $26.99
Diamond G Rice 50lbs. LIMIT $28.99
Nongshin Bowl Noodle $7.99 CASE
Ichiban $10.99 CASE
King Chef Vegetable Oil 5gal $31.99

FAMILY BAG

Stew Chicken	$6.99
Chicken Leg Qtr	$5.99
Chicken Wings	$11.99
Chicken Nuggets	$11.99
Mackerel Fish	$5.99
Pork Hock	$6.99
Pork Adobo	$9.99
Pork Bellies	$11.99
Pork Chop	$11.99
Pork Spareribs	$6.99
Beef Ribeye	$15.99
Beef Stew	$12.99
Beef Shank	$11.99
Beef Feet	$7.99
Beef Shortribs	$15.99

Chicken Leg Quarter 33lbs $26.99 LIMIT
Whole Chicken 30lbs $37.99 LIMIT
Pork Spareribs 20lbs $21.99
Beef Patties $6.69
Vega Shrimps $5.79 LB.
Mega Butane Gas $23.49 CASE

GROCERIES

Ox & Palm Corned Beef $2.99 11.5 OZ.
Spam All Kinds $2.39 EA
Black Label Luncheon $1.79 EA..
Campbells Chicken Noodle 89¢ 10 OZ.
Libby's Vienna Sausage 69¢ 5 OZ.
Master A1 Tuna $1.39 7 OZ.
Coco Tuna $1.39 5 OZ.
Beach Cliff Sardines 99¢
Ace of Diamond Tuna $1.39
Century Tuna 89¢ 7 OZ.
Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash $1.99 6.5 OZ.
Hormel Chili with Beans $1.69 15 OZ.
Hormel Chili No Beans $1.79 15 OZ.
Star Margarine $5.29 1Kilo
Kikkoman Soy Sauce $3.99 1.6 L.
Kimchi Base $6.39 13.5 OZ.
Morton Salt 85¢ 450 gm
Vlasic Sliced Dill Pickle $5.99 1 GAL.
Dinty Moore Beef Stew $1.69 15 OZ.
Dinty Moore Meatball Stew $1.69 15 OZ.
Royal Spaghetti Noodle $2.49 1 kg.
Excellent Rice Stick 99¢
Tabasco $6.79 12 oz.
Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce (all kinds) $1.59 26.5oz.
Del Monte Whole Corn $5.49 106 oz.
Del Monte Whole Corn 99¢ 15 OZ.
Enfamil Infant $41.99 CASE
Kellogg's Frosted Flakes $3.79 12 OZ.
Kellogg's Corn Pops $3.99 12 OZ..
Kellogg's Apple Jacks $3.99 EA. 12 OZ.
Kellogg's Tri-pak $12.99
General Mills Tri-pak $8.99
Argo Corn Starch 99¢ 5 LBS.
Gold Medal Flour $3.49 37.02 OZ.
Pancake Mix $2.79 18.25 OZ.
Duncan Hines Cake Mix $1.99
Tang Orange $7.99 22 QTS.
Kool-Aid $7.99 34 QTS.
Nestea Lemon $5.49 45 OZ.
Coffee Mate $8.99 50 OZ.
Folgers Coffee $8.79 12 OZ.
Folgers Coffee $11.99 33.3 OZ.
Maxwell Coffee Mix $8.49 100CT.
Best Food Mayonnaise $15.49 1 GAL.
GB Mayonnaise $9.69 1 GAL.
Country Lime Lemonade $7.99
Quaker Oats (Oatmeal) $4.49 42 OZ.
Whole Chicken Can $5.99 50 OZ.
Real Lemon Juice $3.39 32 OZ.
Dragon Vegetable Oil $9.49 1 GAL.
Fresco Vegetable $9.49 1 GAL.
DelMonte Ketchup $4.69 2 64 OZ.
Happy Time Assorted Cookies $6.49
Golden State Vinegar $3.99 2 1 GAL.
Carnation Evaporated Milk $1.49
Foremost Milk $20.49
White Sugar 2kg $2.79 2 KG.
Kruataia Coconut Milk 99¢
Aroy-D Coconut Milk $1.69
Bright Coconut Milk $1.69
Lotte Mineral Water $5.49 500ML
Wilkins Water $2.99 6000ML
Pringles (All Kinds) $1.99
Shim Ramyun Noodles Soup $11.49 CASE
Hite Can $16.99 CASE

BEVERAGE

Kool-Aid Jammers $2.99 BOX
Sunkist $6.99 CASE
Ruby Kist Apple Juice $3.99 64oz.
Ruby Kist Orange Juice $4.99 64oz.
Western Family Cola $3.25
Pepsi Can $16.49 CASE LIMIT
Jinro Soju $28.99 CASE

PRODUCE

Onion 69¢ LB.
Potato 79¢ LB.
Cabbage 89¢ LB.
Korean Pear $2.99 LB.
Broccoli $1.49 LB.
Celo Apple $3.49 /BAG
Orange 99¢ LB.
Honeydew/ Cantaloupe 99¢ LB.
Garlic $1.25 5 PCS.
U.S. X-Large Eggs $2.39 1 DOZ.

FROZEN

Hashbrown $4.59 20PCS. $2.29 10PCS.
Bar S Jumbo Franks $1.19
Millers Sausage $16.99
Bar S Ham $18.99 10LBS.
Bar S Bacon $3.29
Ground Beef $10.99 5LBS.
Chamorro Sausage $4.49 10LBS.
Brown Serve Sausage $1.69
Ground Pork $22.49 10LBS.
Tilapia $1.09 /LB.
Milk Fish $1.49 /LB.
Green Shell Mussels $5.99 2LBS.

NON-FOOD

Purex $4.49 50 OZ.
Gain Liquid $6.49 50 OZ. $10.99 100 OZ.
Gain Powder 120 loads $16.99 50 OZ.
Joy Ultra $1.49 12.5 OZ. $6.99 90 OZ.
Huggies Big $17.99 BOX
Luvs Big $17.99 BOX
Drypers Convenient $5.75
Luvs Baby wipes $11.99 432PCS. $3.39 216PCS.
Bounty Paper Towel $19.99 15 Rolls
Bounty Paper Towel $8.99 8 Rolls
Dawn Dishwashing Soap $8.99 90 oz.
Suave Shampoo & Conditioner 2 for $3.00
Safe Guard Bar-Soap 79¢ 135 g.
Head & Shoulders $5.49 EA. 14 OZ.
Head & Shoulders Shampoo $7.99 23OZ.
Herbal Essence (all kinds) $5.99 700ML. $3.39 12OZ.
Charmin Ultra Strong Tissue $6.99 24 Rolls
Charmin Basic Toilet paper $14.99 24ROLLS $8.29 12ROLLS
Foam Plates $3.29 50 CT $7.99 125 CT
Diamond Aluminum Foil $7.49 200SQ.FT.

Located in San Antonio (formerly Sunleader Supermarket) ***ONE STOP SHOP WITH THE LOWEST PRICES ON ISLAND!***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 82

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
AP The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Terror's 'invisible women'

By KARLA CUNNINGHAM
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Women are becoming more lethal. In jihadist organizations—including even al-Qaida, which had long banned females from violent roles—women are increasingly taking part in terrorist actions.

Since 1985, terrorism's so-called invisible women have accounted for a quarter of fatal attacks in Iraq, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Chechnya, Sri Lanka, Morocco and Palestine. My research found that by mid-2008, women had acted as suicide bombers 21 times in Iraq's markets and other civilian venues patronized by Shiites.

Other research has demonstrated that since 2002 women have carried out fully 50 percent of suicide attacks in Sri Lanka, Turkey and Chechnya.

So why do we think of violent jihadists as largely male? One reason is that terrorism observers, mostly men who have historically focused on men at war, tend to view women who participate in acts of terrorism as exceptions. Given women's increasingly violent roles in jihadist organizations, however, researchers overlook females as effective killers at our peril.

Chechen women have been so successful as terrorists that Chechen leadership has now shifted to using them more than men. The Sri Lankan terrorist organization Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam managed to kill India's prime minister in a one-on-one suicide attack because a female terrorist was able to get close to him where a male terrorist might have had more difficulty.

The increasing participation in violence by female jihadists represents, in part, a generational shift in their attitudes toward violence. In the past, these women seldom went beyond such activities as gun-running, harboring fugitives, fund-raising and intelligence—activities that oiled the terrorist machine and enabled it to operate smoothly but kept women at a remove from violence. Now many are no longer content to sit on the sidelines.

In 2008, Ayman Zawahiri, then second in command of al-Qaida and perhaps now its leader, allowed no female bombers in al-Qaida. He told female supporters their role was to stay home and raise children. But then the next year his wife, Omaima Hassan, defied him and went online to encourage women to become more active in jihad.

Part of the reason male jihadists have accepted more female participation is that terrorist organizations have lost many men through counter-terrorism. As women have volunteered to become suicide bombers, they proved to be highly successful in hiding their bombs—and their intent to use them—under religious clothing. They raise fewer suspicions, and male jihadists appreciate that women can take advantage of the lack of female security personnel and gender-biased enforcement to get closer to their targets.

For their part, a younger generation of female jihadists has come to believe that acts of violence can be just as liberating politically and spiritually for women as for men. A religious woman can deflect her parents' or husband's objections by invoking the name of religion, which trumps all.

The new mantra is "even women must fight."

The U.S. has also produced its female terrorists. "Jihad Jane," born Colleen R. LaRose, seemed to self-radicalize via the Internet. She recruited a female Muslim convert, Jamie Paulin-Ramirez, who moved with her 6-year-old son to Europe to take

See WOMEN on Next Page

WOW. A CHARACTER ON 'MAD MEN' CALLS MITT ROMNEY'S DAD A 'CLOWN'
HUH. AND DURING AN ELECTION YEAR!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE!
TO WHAT LENGTHS WILL HOLLYWOOD GO TO RE-ELECT THEIR GUY?
HITCH
TELEGRAM & GAZETTE
THIS WEEK ON 'AMERICAN IDOL'
MITT SEEMS A BIT PITCHY —AND OUT OF TUNE WITH WORKING PEOPLE!

The culture of death

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

The Passover feast is a commemoration of the liberation of the Jewish people from their enslavement in the quarries of Egypt. Save for the Babylonian captivity, the enslavement was by default, almost like bonded servitude experienced by many contract workers around the world. Contracted service is a quantifiably monetized value, assessing labor for its marketability, not its intrinsic human worth.

The New Testament witness has Paul testifying that "sin abounds, but grace abounds much more." The history of Christendom missed that crucial testimony. Much of Christianity leaves a trail of warring factions in the ravages of war. As late as Georgie Bush's presidency and his retinue of Armageddon warriors mapping foreign and defense policies, we heard articulated the justification of the preemptive offense as a military strategy. Most recently, we heard the Obama administration tick off the conditions when it was justifiable to "salvage" an American!

All these in the name of security, which has become our God! It is no comfort to haul the pacific Jesus of the anti-war movement. Jesus did not shy away from recognizing the ways of violence when he told followers that his message divides kin from the same household. As with the poor, violence will always be with us. The facticity is not the contradiction; designation of cause, and the accountability of blame, is.

The culture of death was enshrined when Augustine traced human depravity to genesis in the garden by Mesopotamia. The theistic creator of the universe condemned but sustained human degradation itself. Such force had to be appeased, and the theology of salvation was not too far behind. Jesus was the substitutionary son in the Abrahamic tradition, save the older story spared the child. In the Golgotha story, the child is sacrificed as befitting the requirements of a vengeful sovereign.

Ah, but the images we hold in our imagination determines the texture and direction of our behavior. We miss out on the true nature of education when we insist on students passing tests of memorized data rather than wringing them through the rigors of self-consciously confronting the images they live by.

The "hoodie" in the Martin Trayvon case has since come to the fore as an example of our delving in the devil of the details rather than confronting the import of the image in the big picture. Gerardo made the mistake of airing advice to parents not to let their kids off with their hoodies (a popular hooded sweat shirt). Even the White House promo on hoodies got withdrawn after the Florida incident, yet no one seems ready to confront the climate of fear that has shrouded our living arrangements as evidenced in our gated neighborhoods. The volunteer watchman gunman Zimmerman himself admitted that it was already dark and it was raining, so Martin had his hood up.

America sadly has become the biggest importer of the culture of death in our time. Our self-story has been that we were dragged kicking into the two World Wars. Not so, our historians now note. The Civil War was conducted with wide-open eyes. Our track record on non-European immigrants is not a rosy one. Our duplicity from the Maine at the Havana harbor, and on to the Gulf of Tonkin resolution is now a matter of record, and the forgiving Filipinos mired in their theistic fatalism have all but forgotten Dewey's betrayal at Manila Bay (but now claim an unofficial seat around American hearths as the 51st State of the Union).

We hesitate to use the word "forgiveness" to apply to a case in a culture where revenge is all but sanctioned. But I heard the word used in China's CCTV9 lexicon, its English news station, in the recent account of Zhang Yanwei, mother of Zhang Meng, her 25-year-old son who six years ago was senselessly stabbed eight times by a gang of eight young man until he bled to death. A dispute arose over a girl the young Zhang was walking home.

To lose a child in a one-child society can be the most tragic thing to happen to a mother. Yanwei kept a journal of her "conversations" with her son while the case was on trial. The verdict was the death penalty to be implemented immediately for the primary crime perpetrator and life sentences for the remaining seven. The family of the convicts appealed, sent a feeler to Yanwei for a conference of reconciliation, a procedure allowed in the Chinese judicial system that affects verdicts.

Zhang Yanwei's "conversations" with her son led her to realize that her son was the "forgiving" kind. She consented to a verdict of suspended implementation of the death penalty. The news focused on the lifting of a heavy burden off Yanwei's shoulders as her kin were adamant in following the vengeful dictates of their hearts, while hers in honor of her son went the path less traveled.

The Gospel accounts on Jesus' Friday have Mark and Matthew crying the Psalmist's anguish, *Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani!* Luke offered words of forgiveness, and John, chronologically the last to be written, affirmed Jesus' finitude and the almost Islamic abject surrender of the completed life.

It is the reality of forgiveness that is the antidote to the culture of death. Once a divine prerogative, it is now a human choice. Alas, Jesus still remains crucified.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The tip of the spear

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

While the Commonwealth's businesses are fighting for every dollar they can get, it's not a bad time to ponder the customer service realm.

Please, a show of hands if you've got a similar story: My pals and I had a favorite lunch spot on Saipan, but we eventually abandoned it after the service became so bad it wasn't just annoying, it was positively wretched. None of us complained about it. Hey, we're not the complaining types. But we did stop going. So did everyone else, I suppose, since the place went under. The pity is that it was otherwise a very nice place with great food, and the owner had obviously invested a lot of money and effort in the startup. Alas, it was all for naught. Here's the moral I saw: The lowest-paid, and lowest-skilled, employees are usually the ones who directly define the customer experience.

Those floor workers are the tip of the spear. And if the tip of the spear isn't sharp, then it doesn't matter if the rest of it is solid gold, does it?

But there are ways to sharpen it. From my corporate days I distilled things down to three points, if for no other reason than to give myself a little checklist. Here it is: (a) People, (b) Process, and (c) Hierarchy.

People, by which I mean employees interfacing with customers, are often treated by management as "human resources," merely homogenous units of input that, like lumps of coal, are thrown into the process. Such is the dysfunction of our bureaucratic age. Even a kid can see through it. I worked my first retail job at age 15, and I quickly saw that the workers on the floor had a wide range of quality: Some were friendly, pleasant, and could solve minor problems, and others were sour-faced, snippy, and perversely proud of being unable to solve anything. I don't think that humans are "resources." I think they're people.

Incidentally, the CNMI's work force has a lot of very capable workers, many of whom have excellent customer service skills, so when I encounter shortcomings I think it's a management shortfall. Much is probably due to absentee owners who have assumed (incorrectly) that things will just take care of themselves.

As for the "Process" part of things, well, an internationally respected example is McDonald's, one of 30 companies on the Dow Jones Industrial average. It shows, among other things, that low prices and good customer service can go together. They've obviously created a process that leaves nothing to chance when a customer starts to place an order. It's not an afterthought. It's a system.

Now comes "Hierarchy," and it means having a chain-of-command with ever higher levels of competence that is always within reach of the retail floor. An example of a hierarchy is the floor workers, then a supervisor over them, then a manager over the supervisor.

I once worked where the guy in the next office was our vice president of operations. I'll just call him the Ops guy. If customer service was falling short in one of our stores, the Ops guy would simply fire the manager, instant-presto. End of story. The Ops guy managed, and he fired, from the top-down, not the bottom-up.

Via that culling process he wound up with a cadre of managers that was the envy of the industry. He could get more done in a one-minute phone call than most folks could accomplish with a brace of meetings and barrage of memos. While many executives make grand shows of long hours in the office, huffing and puffing the livelong day, the Ops guy could smoothly run things via an occasional, and brief, phone call from his Jacuzzi. He often did just that. His managers were razor-sharp. The results showed.

"Dude, how did you find such great people?" I once asked him.

"By firing the bad ones," he answered.

Speaking of which, so-called "education" didn't fool the Ops guy. That wasn't sour grapes; he was Ivy League. But many of his managers were high school dropouts promoted from within the company. Competence was all that mattered. Anyway, adjusting their salaries for inflation, our managers were making about $80,000 a year in today's dollars; and that wasn't gray hairs, either, since many of them were about 30 years old.

Well, that cadre of managers wraps back around to the importance of "People," so the last item on the list is now the first again. Having closed the circle with such elegant flair, it's time for lunch. If, that is, the waiter will ever show up.

Governor lays down gauntlet

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

If there's a learning curve for gubernatorial invective—at some point when dishonest political abuse yields diminishing returns—the process started irreversibly when the titular head of local Republicans fired two Cabinet members last week. The rebuke from governance is inevitable, the demagoguery used a decision he will regret for life.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial finally lays down the gauntlet, dividing foes from friends. He decision redefines perception of his once sterling political career. Unfortunately, it's now riddled with filthy fumes of vengeance, instantly trashing political intelligence and long nurtured friendship. Sir, it is said that friends come and go, enemies accumulate.

He wanted his Cabinet people to follow his unprincipled principle, deferring to his self-concocted concept of principle. He now uses the gift of gaffe to depose perceived enemies in government. He wields a weapon of political exploitation to inflict fear even among innocent bystanders. Doesn't he treasure long forged friendships?

He instantly severs ties with political bosom buddies while permanently torpedoing his working relationship with the lieutenant governor. It's inconceivable, his dismissive arrogance trashing the faithful who got him into office twice.

He now rewards key jobs to Republicans who were his arch political enemies in recent past. He's decided to drain a well of trust in favor of vicious political betrayal. Well, the water that supports his boat could easily sink it too and there's no doubt the latter would reveal its dreaded face this midterm election.

Principle? What principle? His new ploy, displaying habitual dishonesty and unruly ping-pong dictates while running off the ranch every other full moon? The brave though warped statement of principle is illogical, no matter how you dissect it. Is his principle the lack of integrity to guard his administration from falling flat on its face? Is it his shiny trophy of demagoguery? Doesn't he know that a lie goes around the world before truth could get its boots on?

There's the emergence of the culture of facelessness—when the governor no longer listens to governance, you and I, so he understands our ideas and concerns; cronyism, nepotism and corruption. He's gotten too big for their pants. He's no longer a part of our small island community. He's lost command and purposeful direction as events overwhelm his weak-kneed leadership and turns to adolescent vengeance to get even with perceived enemies. He's burned his bridges with most folks here, including the feds across the sea. Gee! We've got ourselves the wrong trophy all along, right?

He now heads the Republican Party, hoping to lure more members and suspect unity with exhausted Republican leadership. But followers intuitively refrained from it, knowing that ping-pong leadership only encourages instability, uncertainty, and now the dreaded irreversible effects of disunity. Must followers rally behind someone who's blinded by greed for more power than he could handle? Is he miffed that the Covenant Party has rallied behind Kilili? Both Kilili and Sen. Paul Manglona would win re-election hands down.

Does Fitial know that governance is equally wary of the unstable effects of the shifting sands under his feet, exacerbated by fellow Republicans who have seen fit to bolt their own party, humiliated by its failed performance to improve the lot of governance? Is the disintegration he's forced upon loyal followers his priced trophy? This becomes fodder and weapon for the multitude to end the era of dysfunctional and tired political dinosaurs that literally disposed fellowship in favor or brinkmanship. Would governance repeat with a failed administration after sinking the local economy into a catastrophic low?

Fitial's demagoguery will go down in history with more than his share of rebuke from governance. What started out with confidence ends with bitter perception of his leadership from the faithful who once slaved and sacrificed for a man who's done his rain dance of death: Without integrity nothing matters! A` Saina dios mihu! *Note: The foregoing is strictly and observation. I have no political persuasion, as it is vital that I keep all candidates in plain full view to dissect their prospects of success or failure as policymakers heading toward November.*

■■■

Answers needed from MPLT

There's the feud instigated by the illustrious chairman of MPLT demanding payment from the Department of Public Lands. It's a tale seemingly designed to make DPL look and be perceived as failing in its fiduciary duties. Is it or is the perceptual abrogation of duties the concoction of the head of MPLT for the sake of publicity?

The Constitution is very clear what DPL does with its segregated funds. The Legislature receives planned expenditure of DPL funds and is prohibited from fiddling with it. The former head of DPL knows his fiduciary responsibilities to remit to MPLT after he's done subtracting "administrative" expenses. And this is written in plain language and doesn't require publicly demanding payment when so constitutionally provided for. Too, I have yet to discern in any form or fashion that the former secretary had committed dereliction of duty. It's the exact opposite!

It stands to reason that the head of MPLT's board of directors, Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero, focuses his attention on an ongoing investigation about the purchase of real estate in recent years by MPLT. This definitely requires some sense of integrity to answer relevant questions on a suspect real estate deal. Or is his fancy footing so designed to distract and detract from the real issue before the board? When could we hear honest answers to queries being sought by the Senate Committee on EAGI?

■■■

Honoring the consent of the governed

Who represents our interest in our democratic institutions is solely based and derived from the consent of the governed. It includes laws approved or disapproved in a plebiscite like the proposed casino that governance shot down twice. Why proponents have turned their heads against the voice of the governed on this issue is now a mystery quite difficult to unravel. I could only surmise it must be arrogance or stupidity or both.

Did proponents ever make an effort to study and comprehend why the casino industry never thrived on Tinian and Rota? Even employing adolescent reasoning, isn't it because there are better gambling venues nearby like Macau and Singapore? Isn't it true that neither island has the wealthy (not rich but wealthy) bunch that could afford to dump their disposable income in local casino joints?

Now, what kind of economic demography could we find on Saipan? Isn't it true that most are on food stamps, struggling biweekly to pay their utility and hospital bills? What sort of math have you learned as to ignore that one plus one is two, not five? Interesting how you've opted to ignore basic facts and latched on to the figment of your imagination.

WOMEN

From Page 10

part in jihad. LaRose was arrested in 2009 and eventually charged with several terrorism-related crimes. She pleaded guilty to all counts.

Other indictments of U.S. women have linked them to supporting roles in terrorist organizations (including al-Qaida and Hezbollah) in Somalia, Afghanistan, Egypt and Britain.

The women-as-terrorist trend is highly likely to continue. Al-Qaida recently launched an Arabic-language magazine targeting women—much as its English-language magazine, Inspire, targets men—and urging them to take up the jihadist mantle. In their writings for the magazine, women also attempt to shame men for not being active enough.

As women step up their participation, terrorist-watchers need to keep pace. Terrorism's "invisible women" need to be counted and countered not only by the U.S., but by all countries that harbor them.

Karla Cunningham is a political scientist at the Rand Corp. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°

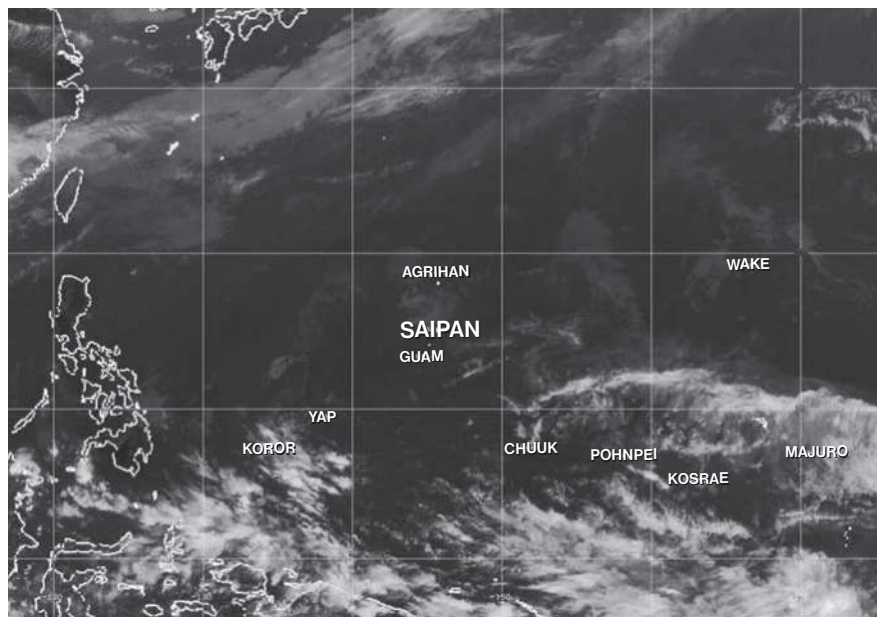
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲71	▼59
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼41
Hong Kong	Showers	▲73	▼67
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼43
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼47
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼54
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼72
New York	Sunny	▲59	▼38
Osaka	Showers	▲53	▼40
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼38
Pusan	Windy	▲57	▼36
Rome	Showers	▲70	▼51
Salem	Thundershowers	▲50	▼33
San Francisco	Sunny	▲56	▼43
Seoul	Sunny	▲49	▼33
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼40
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼42

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough stretches east-southeastward from 8N130E to 1N151E then continues eastward to south of Kwajelein at 2N170E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring east of Koror between 5N and 8N from 135E to 138E and southwest of Koror southwest of a line from 6N130E to EQ139E farther east. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between 5N and the equator from 150E to 167E. A weak tropical disturbance east of Majuro is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between 4N and 9N from 173E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:01 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
7:58 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:29 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:39 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:57 PM	5:14 AM
Saturday	7:00 PM	6:03 AM
Sunday	8:04 PM	6:54 AM
Monday	9:09 PM	7:50 AM
Tuesday	10:12 PM	8:49 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Letters to the Editor

Time to get serious

Last Friday a car belonging to visiting tourists was broken into at Ladder Beach. Frankly, I don't see why this is even news. After thousands of car and home break-ins over the years this seems to be as predictable, and as acceptable, as the sun setting or the tide rising. Not only is there a lack of will to stop this activity, there doesn't even seem to be a desire. The general reaction seems to be, "tsk, tsk, that's Saipan…"

So, we sit back and say what a shame. Meanwhile, the tourists involved go back home to China, Russia, Korea, and Japan. If we're lucky they will simply consider their trip a bad memory and vow to never return. But more likely they will tell everyone who will listen about their experience in the CNMI. And, with the help of the Internet, that is a big audience. What should happen in a situation such as this is for MVA to immediately step in with a rapid-response team to offer assistance to the victims and help them salvage their vacations. Yes, even if it is a weekend. High-level elected and appointed officials should make immediate contact with the victims and offer apologies. I doubt if this has ever happened even once, much less on a routine basis.

Any good that may have been accomplished by MVA spending tens of thousands of dollars attending the latest tourism trade shows will be obliterated by this negative publicity. If the Legislature would spend a tenth of the time addressing crime that they do obsessing about casinos I have no doubt that the problem could be solved.

Tourists will not come to Saipan for casinos and shooting ranges. We already have casinos, and the shooting ranges we did have accomplished nothing but result in a half dozen murders a few years ago. Tourists will come to Saipan when they are not robbed, when the beaches are clean, and when they can drive down our roads without having to look at abandoned and burned-out buildings and dead animals.

It is time to get serious. Clean up the island. Clean up the criminal punks, clean up the litter, clean up the abandoned buildings, and the tourists will return. As it is now, coming to Saipan is like vacationing in Baghdad. In retrospect it probably is good that James Cameron chose not base his expedition on Saipan or that the *Queen Mary* couldn't enter port. The submarine probably would have been broken into and the *Queen Mary* stolen.

DPS and MVA, set up some sting operations. Wildlife monitoring cameras (very appropriate, since we are dealing with animals) are available for less than $200. Put one at every tourist site. DPS and Commerce, hammer the pawnshops. We have laws regulating them. Check their records. If they don't have records for every item in their shop shut them down and prosecute them. Legislature, enact some habitual offender legislation instead of discussing expunging criminal records. And judges, let's see some real punishment, not suspended sentences, reduced bail, and letters of apologies.

Ron Fusco
Capital Hill, Saipan

Questions that need answers

Efrain Camacho writes that repealing Article 12 is not about selling land; it's about giving job opportunities to Northern Marianas descents. This is just the first in his convoluted and factually inaccurate justifications for repealing land protections.

Just how many job-intensive industries are waiting to move to the CNMI upon the repeal of Article 12? None that I know of. In the garment days, did any factory owners complain about the lack of landownership? In the days of peak tourism, did hotels close down because of Article 12? And currently, exactly what economic opportunities would abolishing land protection provide our people? Please be specific. Without specifics, your argument is no better than any other pie-in-the-sky "recovery plan."

The only industries that are attracted to landownership in the CNMI are golf courses and vacation home developers. This is true not only in the CNMI, but in similar island destinations, such as Hawaii. What "job opportunities" will our local people be provided by some outsider's mansion home? Maybe a butler and a gardener? Is that reason enough to give up our island home?

Lastly, Mr. Camacho claims that abolishing Article 12 doesn't mean actually selling the land to outsiders. It's only about having the opportunity to do so, not about taking the opportunity to sell land. Really? So if Article 12 is abolished, NMDs will not sell their land, only will proudly enjoy their opportunity to sell it? And outsiders will not actually buy land, only enjoy the theoretical opportunity to buy it?

None of Efrain Camacho's story makes sense. The real story is much simpler. There is a land grab by real estate and hotel developers, and their accomplices are a few landowning locals who are eager to sell out our island. That's a much more straightforward and honest account of the situation, isn't it?

I urge everyone who cares about Saipan not to fall for the stories people like Efrain Camacho are weaving. Their real motivations are much simpler than what they claim. They say that locals aren't foolish. We non-foolish locals indeed should realize when someone is trying to trick us. If you sign the anti-land-protection petition, you'll be the one being taken for a fool.

Diego C. Blanco
As Lito, Saipan

Democratic Party elects Manibusan as chair of Central Executive Committee

In their first meeting of the year, the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas elected retired judge Edward Manibusan as head of its Central Executive Committee.

In accepting the position, Manibusan said: "This is the revival of the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas. It is time to give our people a new voice, a voice that will truly represent us in the Legislature, in the Executive Branch, and Washington. Our Commonwealth is broken and we need to rebuild it. Our people have suffered long enough in the hands of failed leadership."

Manibusan's priority is to recruit from the communities of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands. The Central Executive Committee is also reviewing its platform and hopes to issue the party's platform at the general membership meeting to be called in the near future.

"Our party is the peoples' party. We will work hard to make our Commonwealth the best place to live, work or visit. We will ensure that every citizen is given the opportunity to participate in the economic, social and general well-being of our Commonwealth. Our members will campaign based on our platform and will hold our members responsible for implementing them," said Manibusan.

The committee is also reviewing its finances, which it believes is fundamental to a successful organization. Manibusan said that the party will hold membership drives, meetings, and fundraising events where people in the community can share their concerns with members of the party.

Manibusan invites every one from Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Northern Islands to join the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas. If you wish to join, contact 235-6520, 483-7934 weekdays between 4-6pm. ***(Democratic Party)***

Woman gets 2-year sentence for beating 3 at a store

A woman who was among five persons accused in the beating of a female cashier and two men at a store in Chalan Kanoa pleaded guilty Wednesday and was slapped with a two-year prison term.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 1st birthday to Victoria Hailey Rain E. Arceo! Wishing you many more birthdays to come *princessa*! Lots of love from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cheroleen Ray, 20, pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and battery, and assault and battery as part of a plea deal.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Ray to five years in prison, all suspended except for two years, for aggravated assault and battery, with credit for time served.

For assault and battery, the judge sentenced Ray to a year in prison to be served concurrently with the sentence for aggravated assault and battery. This means that the total prison term for both charges is two years.

Ray will begin serving her sentence on April 27, 2010. Once she gets out, she will be placed on five years probation.

Ray was also ordered to pay a $1,000 fine, $100 court assessment fee, a probation fee, and restitution to victims Xiaoping Tudela and Mohammed A. Bashar in an amount to be determined by the Office of Adult Probation.

Wiseman also required Ray to submit to an alcohol and drug assessment at the Community Guidance Center and complete any recommended treatment. She was also directed to complete anger management counseling.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Ray with assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, two counts of assault and battery, and two counts of disturbing the peace.

Ray and assistant public defender Matthew Meyer signed a plea deal with the government. At the hearing, assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll appeared for the government.

Driscoll said the government recognized Ray's early acceptance of responsibility, lack of a substantial criminal record, and willingness to testify against her co-defendants if called to do so.

According to the plea deal, on Oct. 8, 2011, on Saipan, Ray, Arinna Reiong, Norma Tipingeni, Anson Sansi, and Mark Rudolph caused serious bodily injury to Tudela. Ray also beat up Bashar.

The incident happened at the Dhaka Store along Texas Road in the morning of Aug. 8, 2011.

When a police officer responded to the store, the cashier, Tudela, was found lying in a pool of blood on the floor.

Police said the five suspects beat up Tudela when the victim confronted Ray for slamming the phone on its console. Rudolph also allegedly tried to open the cash register.

Last January, Rudolph, 22, pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace and was sentenced to three months in prison. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Improve your health with yoga at NMC

The Northern Marianas College through the Community Development Institute is offering a short-term course on kundalini yoga, which is an ancient discipline designed to enhance overall physical and mental wellness.

During this course, participants will learn how to do different yoga poses along with meditation and breathing techniques. The benefits of kundalini yoga include improved posture to decrease incidence of injury, increased physical strength and flexibility, and more relaxation and greater control of stress. Participants will also learn foot massage techniques, as well as important nutritional information.

This course is offered as part of the college's mission to provide customized, continuing educational, professional development, as well as personal enrichment opportunities in response to community needs.

Additionally, courses that are offered through CDI are designed to improve individual knowledge and specific skills, are geared around actual workforce needs and experiences based on course surveys, community needs assessments, and interviews with employers.

The Kundalini Yoga course will begin on Friday, April 13, 2012, and will continue every Friday until the last day on May 18, 2012. The schedule is 9am to 10:30am at the NMC As Terlaje campus. The course fee is $90. Minimum enrollment for this course is 15 enrollees.

It is preferred that all interested individuals register before the start of the first day of class. Certificates of completion will be awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to a class.

To register, or for information about these classes, please visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call Les Ogumoro-Uludong at 234-5498 extension 1010 or e-mail logumoro@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
GUANGDONG MILEI? GUANGDONG BA ITO?
GOOD NEWS TO ALL TINIAN/ROTA CUSTOMERS:
To order just dial 288-2288, Payment can be made through credit card authorization, or cashier check, postal money order, traveler's check sent thru Freedom Air/ SN-5.
2012 BIG BANG SPECIAL!
HOLLOW BLOCKS (CMU) 4" – $0.65/pc 6" – $0.75/pc 8" – $0.85/pc
#4 REBAR $820.00/BUNDLE
#3,#5,#6,#7,#8 REBAR $840.00/ST MADE IN KOREA
THIN-SET MORTAR $7.80 | JOINT COMPOUND $19.00 5 GAL.
ELECTRICAL PIPE 1/2" $2.40 | 3/4" $2.90
NEW ARRIVALS OF CERAMIC TILES 12"*12" $0.89/pc • 8"*12" $0.60/pc
CPVC PIPE 1/2" $18.00 • 3/4" $26.00 • 1" $35.00
OTHERS
CEMENT $7.50/BAG
DELIVERY CHARGE TO TINIAN-$3.00/BAG
SEMI-GLOSS INT. & EXT. LATEX $18.50/GAL | $74.99/PAIL
FLAT INT. & EXT. LATEX (PRIMER) $16.50/GAL | $66.50/PAIL
25%OFF FOR 2X8 UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR & TREATED
40%OFF FOR OVERSIZED AND DAMAGED MAHOGANY LUMBER
U.S. LUMBER
2X4X20 REGULAR: $7.50
2X4X20 TREATED: $12.50
UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR
2X4X12... $3.95 2X6X14... $7.60
2X4X14... $4.95 2X6X16... $8.90
2X4X16... $5.70 2X6X18... $9.90
2X6X12... $6.70 2X6X20... $10.90
WIRE MESH 7'*50': $73.00
WIRE MESH 7'*100': $125.00
15% TO 50% OFF ALL DAMAGED ITEMS!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:gddc@pticom.com
Business hours:
Mon. to Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
AMERICAN EXPRESS MasterCard VISA

THE ALL-NEW CIVIC
HONDA
$178 per paycheck*
The 2012 Honda Civic
From thrifty to thrilling, Civic covers the spectrum.
Two-tier instrument panel. Sleek lines and futuristic styling invite adventure. Dramatic long windshield adds aerodynamics. Convenient remote entry for quick getaways. 1.8-Liter, 16-Valve SOHC i-VTEC® 4-cylinder engine. MacPherson Strut Front Suspension.
39 UP TO MPG**
Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU
SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. (670) 234-5562
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last. **EPA Estimated hwy mpg.
* Honda Civic total price $22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 10.25% APR for 60 monthly payments of $384.56 or $177.48 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price $23,073.60. Documentation fees and registration not included.

CNMI prevailing wage report now nearing completion

The Central Statistics Division of Commerce, headed by director Perry Inos Jr., reported to the prevailing wage team members last Tuesday on the status of the CNMI Prevailing Wage and Workforce Assessment Study.

The team, which includes Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar, WIA executive director Edith Deleon Guerrero, and Labor Secretary Gil San Nicolas, were selected early last year to assist former CSD director Ivan Blanco and now deputy Commerce secretary, to get a CNMI prevailing wage report before September 2011 but were delayed due to lack of federal funding.

Although the first prevailing wage study was completed by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the team decided to proceed with a prevailing wage report that will be a comprehensive report with broader population base and to also include key component "workforce assessment study" that will be useful to the Department of Labor and the Workforce Investment Agency. This study complements SCC's earlier prevailing wage study.

Based on the preliminary 16 page "pullout" narrative report, Wil Maui of Data Talks stated that CSD is ready to finalize the report by next week Thursday and it should be ready for public viewing by the end of this month upon acceptance by the policy team. The final report should be a little more than 200 pages that will include appendices of SOC (Standard Occupational Classification) detailed average hourly wage rated excluding/including fringe benefits, hourly wage rates by SOC detailed and broad occupation, and minor and major groups.

Although the report is still undergoing final refinement, the prevailing wage team is only able to disclose general data figures on the total businesses and workers in the CNMI that were considered "in-scope"; around 2,340 establishments (business owners, corporations, or entities) were considered "in-scope" and around 1,200 of the "in-scope" establishments reported a little more than 14,400 employees. ***(Office of the Governor)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

IUMC services for Good Friday, Easter

The Immanuel United Methodist Church in Chalan Kanoa will have a Food Friday service today, April 6, 2012, including The Seven Last Words, A Tennebrae Service, at 7pm.

The Easter Sunday Service at the United Methodist Church in Koblerville will be held on April 8, at 5:30am. After the Sunrise Service, everyone is invited to join the Easter games for kids at Immanuel UMC, Chalan Kanoa at 9am. ***(IUMC)***

Red Cross health and safety trainings

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter will be conducting the following health and safety training at its training room on Airport Road:

- Adult CPR/AED: Wednesday, April 11, 6pm-9pm
- First Aid: Thursday, April 12, 6pm-9pm
- Adult CPR/AED: Tuesday, April 24, 6pm-9pm
- First Aid: Wednesday, April 25, 6pm-9pm
- Pediatric CPR/AED: Saturday, April 28, 8am-11:30am

Pre-registration is required at least 24 hours prior to training date. A $70 course fee is required. Two-year certification cards are issued at the end of training. Register by calling 1-800-REDCROSS or visiting www.redcross.org/training. For more information, contact the local chapter at 234-3459. ***(ARC)***

'Finu Chamorro' on Channel 14

'Finu Chamorro' (Let's Talk Chamorro) will be airing on Channel 14 (The Weather Channel) starting April 6, Friday, and replay on the following day, Saturday, from 6:30pm to 7pm.

4 beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged Hafadai Hotel, American Memorial Park, Garapan Fishing Dock, and the Hafadai drainage and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

'Repeal Article 12: The Time Has Come' on Marianas Agupa

Tomorrow, April 7, 2012, Marianas Agupa will feature Efrain Camacho, president of Citizens for Changing Article 12 to talk about the importance of repealing Article 12 and the ongoing signature drive between 10am to 10:30am. The show is from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Listeners on Saipan, Tinian and Rota and those listening via streaming are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the show. Direct to studio at 234-5929 or use marianas agupa Facebook account via instant messaging.

The Chamorro radio talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona and features reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Rota correspondent Thomas D. Mendiola, Tinian correspondent David M. Cing, and a special segment called Hafa Mohon with Juanita Mendiola. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

Guam to participate in Exercise Citadel Pacific 2012

SANTA RITA, Guam—Exercise Citadel Pacific 2012 will be conducted on Naval installations throughout the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility including Regions Hawaii, Marianas, Japan and Singapore from April 10-12.

This annual exercise is designed to enhance the training and readiness of Navy Security Forces to respond to threats to installations and units. Exercise Citadel Pacific 2012 is not in response to any specific threat, but is a regularly-scheduled exercise.

Measures have been taken to minimize disruptions to normal base and station operations, but there may be times when the exercise causes increased traffic around bases or delays in base access. Area residents may also see increased security activity associated with the exercise. ***(USN)***

MHS Class of 1983 meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1983 will have a general class meeting this Friday, April 27, at 6:30pm, at the Garapan Beach road pavilion next to the 13 Fishermen's Monument. For more information, contact Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. ***(PR)***

MIFICPA to induct new officers

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, or MIFICPA, would like to announce that membership and renewal fees for existing members are free for this year. All Filipino accountants are encouraged to join MIFICPA.

The induction of officers and board of directors is on April 28, 2012 at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club at 6pm. Tickets are available at $20 each. Attire is formal.

For more information and membership form, contact Noli Santos, (president) at 285-6810 (nolsantos@yahoo.com) or the following officers: Aileen Indino (287-0305, aileenrindino@yahoo.com); Butch Ordas (789-9276, butchordas@yahoo.com); Robert Reyes (789-6498, robert2reyes@gmail.com). You may also download membership forms from our Facebook account. ***(MIFICPA)***

MONIKA'S FURNITURE

New shipment on accessories, home and office decor, gift items and teak furniture

STORE HOURS:
MON, WED, THURS: 10AM-5PM | FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 10AM-7PM
SUNDAY: 1PM-5PM | CLOSED TUESDAYS

Located on middle road, next to Chongs Refrigeration | Tel: 233-4402
website: monikasfurniture.com

Joe's BAR "THE STEAKHOUSE CAPITAL"

BAR AND RESTAURANT
(formerly The Remington Club)

CLOSED ON GOOD FRIDAY

Weekend Special

SATURDAY
Lunch: 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Choice of:
- Parrot fish wrapped and grilled with local favorite dressing
- Combination plate of Baked Mussels and Grilled Blue Marlin Steak with Garlic Butter Sauce
- Ham Hocks with Navy Beans and Corn Bread

All meals are served with soup or salad, and choice of steamed or red rice, baked, mashed or potato wedges or French fries.

Fruits of the day and dessert

SUNDAY
Lunch and Dinner
Lunch - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Dinner - 5:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Choice of:
- Grilled half a lobster tail, 8 oz .Certified Black Angus Steak, Baked Mussels and Shrimp
- Pit Roasted Pig, Grilled Certified Black Angus Short Ribs, & Grilled Shrimp

All meals are served with soup or salad, choice of steamed or red rice, baked, mashed or potato wedges or French Fries.

Fruits of the day and dessert

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED.

RESTAURANT – Tel: 233-5368 • BAR – Tel: 233-5367
Located on the corner of Corp. Derence Jack Road and
Coral Tree Avenue, across Fiesta Resort & Spa

Over 15K books from Library of Congress shipped to NMI

»Public school libraries get bulk of the donations

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 15,000 books and reading materials have so far been shipped to the Commonwealth in just three years, the bulk of which went to public school libraries on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, according to CNMI Delegate Gregorio Sablan.

"We have sent something like 15,000 books back home to the Northern Mariana Islands to fill shelves in our libraries and, I hope, to fill minds—young, old and in-between—with knowledge and new ideas," Sablan said in his remarks Wednesday for the proclamation signing to endorse April as School Library Month in the CNMI.

The signing was held at the Marianas High School gymnasium and was attended by librarians, education officials, and students from private and public schools.

After his remarks, Sablan turned over to education officials a little over 200 boxes of books—all from the U.S. Library of Congress, the world's largest library and receives multiple copies of most books published in the U.S. each year. He said the overflow is available to members of Congress to send home for school and public libraries.

MONETH G. DEPOSA
Renita Fleming and her brother, LJ, are seen checking the reading materials for their school libraries that were donated by the Library of Congress, through the efforts of Delegate Gregorio Sablan. The Board of Education has endorsed April as School Library Month in the CNMI.

Sablan said they put a little bookplate on each book with a quotation from Charles W. Eliot, who was the longest-serving president of Harvard University and helped transform it into the premier institution of learning that it is today.

Although much of the donated materials are available online these days, Sablan still believes in the value of a book.

"Books require no electricity. They can manage a little rough use. They are light and portable and easily shared with friends. And the wise counsel and patient teaching that books contain remain as important to the educated person today as Eliot believed a hundred years ago. Being well-read, he knew, was part of the fabric of education. And education, he understood, was critically important not only to the individual, but to society as a whole. Because education gives us not only facts and information, but also instills in us the habit of learning and the ability to take what we know and put it to work to better the world we live in," he said, adding that to build a better world begins with a book.

'You belong @ your library'

Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada signed the proclamation with the theme "You Belong @ Your Library." In the proclamation, the board emphasized that the school librarian's role is to provide the leadership and expertise necessary to ensure that the library program is an integral part of the instructional program of schools. It states that the library program contributes to the individual growth and development of all students while fostering both excellence and equity in education.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan expressed elation over the latest donation from the Library of Congress, which consists not only of reading books for students but self-help books for parents, teachers, medical staff, and others as reference materials.

Sablan also spearheaded the signature drive for a "Thank You" note intended for Joseph Mahar, the coordinator of the Library of Congress Surplus Books Program that allows the CNMI to access the materials.

After the proclamation, students and teachers were seen busy going over the books for their libraries.

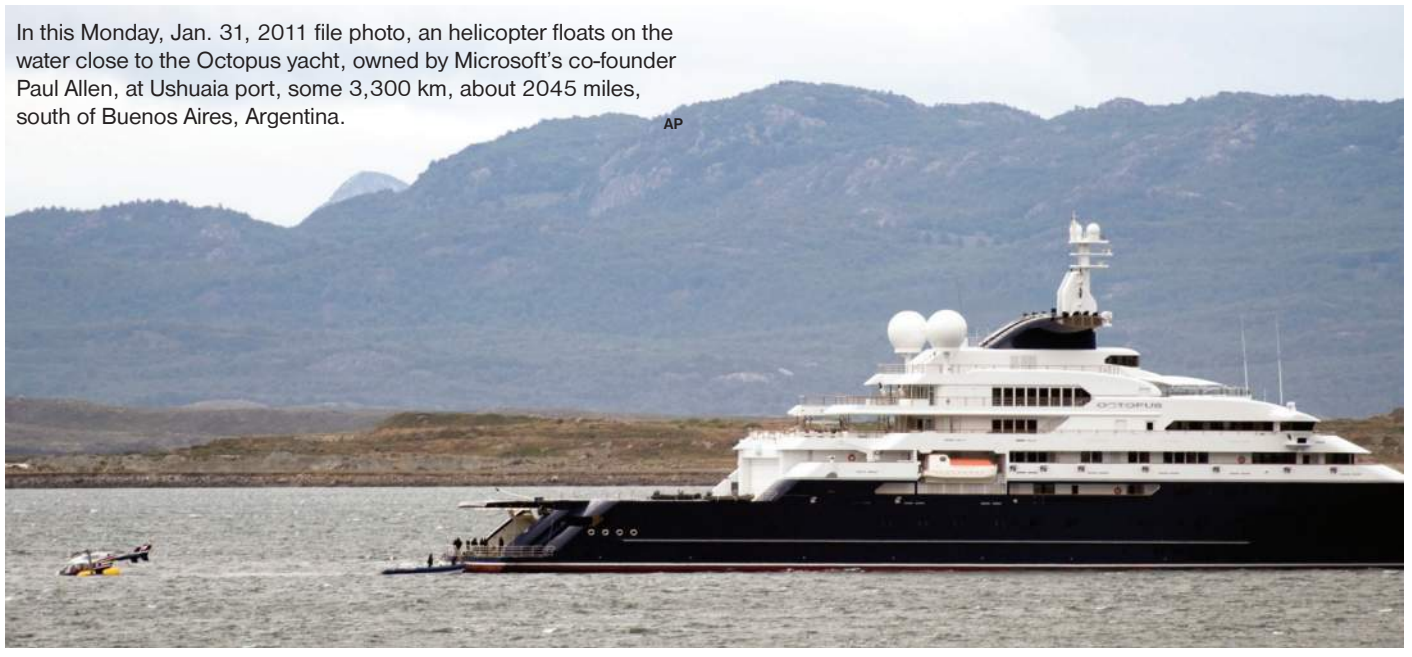
Activities

Lynne Michael, librarian professional learning community chairperson, said that many activities have been lined up for this month's celebration.

Among these is the upcoming annual Parade of Books competition for public and private schools, the launching of the digital read-aloud project by William S. Reyes Elementary School, and the distribution of dictionaries donated by the Rotary Club of Saipan to third graders in all elementary schools.

Other special events are the Saturday reading program, the launching of a TV commercial on literacy by Saipan Southern High School, Read-A-Thon, Drop Everything and Read program, Reading Mania, book marking, poster competition, and many others.

Billionaire's yacht hunts for lost plane off Palau



In this Monday, Jan. 31, 2011 file photo, an helicopter floats on the water close to the Octopus yacht, owned by Microsoft's co-founder Paul Allen, at Ushuaia port, some 3,300 km, about 2045 miles, south of Buenos Aires, Argentina. AP

Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen's mega-yacht—and perhaps even the billionaire himself—are part of a flotilla scouring the Pacific for an American pilot and two Palau police officers whose plane disappeared over the weekend.

The yacht, the Octopus, sailed into a drama over illegal fishing that turned deadly even before the plane vanished off the remote island nation.

A crew member of a Chinese vessel that allegedly poached giant clams from a marine reserve was shot and killed by Palau authorities in a confrontation Saturday. The plane vanished Sunday as it pursued a larger Chinese ship involved in the fishing operation—a vessel that apparently was set on fire by crew members after officers pursued it.

Allen's spokesman David Postman said Allen had been in the region to support his friend, film director James Cameron, who recently explored the world's deepest point, the Mariana Trench northeast of Palau.

Allen's 126-meter (414-foot) yacht has two helicopters, a submarine and a remote-controlled underwater vessel, which took pictures of nautiluses that Allen posted Sunday on Twitter.

That same day, the Octopus picked up radio transmissions from the plane in distress and was among several vessels that alerted the U.S. Coast Guard of its plight, Coast Guard spokesman Lt. j.g. Richard Russell said.

"He's being very modest about his participation," Russell said. "I'm not sure if he's still on board. But for the last few days, he's been lending us both his helicopters in aid of the search. He's been a huge help."

Postman said the Octopus has not been back to port since Allen tweeted the photos but added that he never discloses Allen's whereabouts because of security concerns.

The events in Palau, about 500 miles east of the Philippines, unfolded after six Chinese fishermen were seen diving for giant clams over several days in the Ngeruangel Atoll marine reserve, said to Norbert Yano, Palau's director of public safety.

Yano said state officials tried to intercept the boat Saturday but the fishermen made a dangerous turn around the pursuing vessel. He said officials firing at the fleeing vessel's engines accidentally shot a fisherman in the thigh.

The wounded man died. Yano said he was taken on a 25-minute journey to an island where a nurse lived but she couldn't stop the bleeding in time.

The other five fishermen were arrested and told authorities there was a mother ship nearby, Yano said. A patrol boat located the larger ship Saturday afternoon and began a chase that would last all night.

At 5:30 a.m. Sunday, authorities noticed the mother ship was engulfed in flames, Yano said. He said he believes crew members deliberately set it on fire and abandoned ship to a small ancillary vessel before they were caught.

Authorities enlisted Palau tourist pilot Frank Ohlinger, an American citizen, to fly two Palau officers to the scene, Yano said. Authorities wanted to get photos and other evidence from the burning ship before it sank.

Russell, the Coast Guard spokesman, said Ohlinger later radioed the airport to say his GPS navigational device had failed. The airport turned its lights on full brightness and shot off flares to try and help guide the plane, he said.

In his final transmission, at 8:15 p.m., Ohlinger said he was within minutes of running out of fuel.

"He may have become disoriented," Russell said. "He was trying a number of different maneuvers and bearings to try and get closer to where he believed the airport was."

Russell said authorities have yet to find any trace of the plane despite an extensive search over 6,500 square nautical miles that has involved several Coast Guard vessels as well as official Palauan vessels and private craft. The water is relatively warm in the area, which increases the odds of survival.

The missing Palau officers are Willy Towai and Earl Decherong.

"I ask for your prayers for the captain and these two fine young police officers," Palau President Johnson Toribiong wrote on his Facebook page.

Court records show about 25 Chinese fishermen face a number of charges, including illegal fishing. Wednesday was a holiday in China, and a call to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs went unanswered. ***(AP)***

Search for missing plane suspended

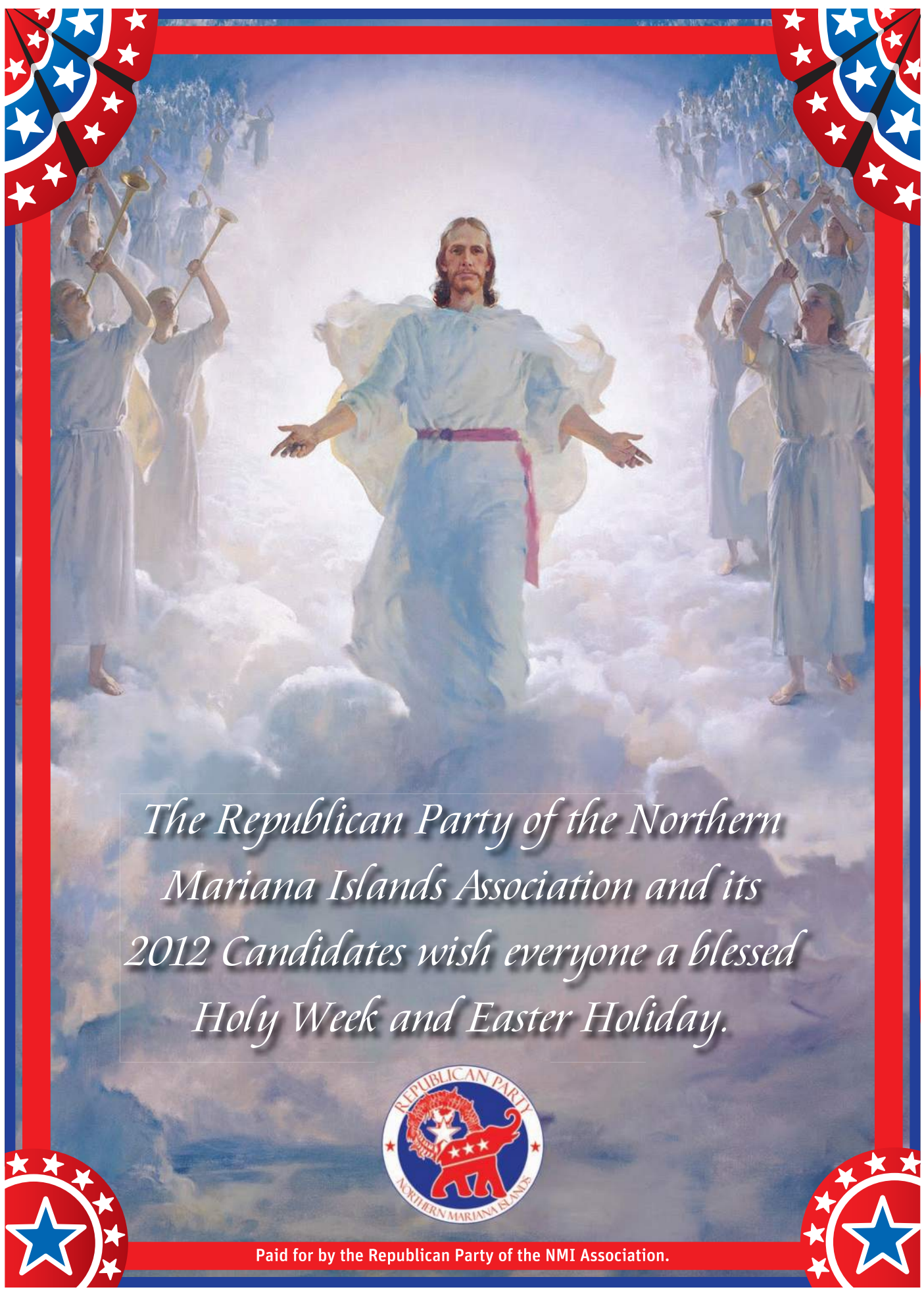
APRA HARBOR, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard suspended its active search in Palau yesterday for three men aboard a Cessna airplane that went missing on Sunday.

Coast Guard, Palau government vessels, and a flotilla of local supporters covered a total of 9,000 square miles during the search for 58-year-old pilot Franklin Ohlinger, 47-year-old detective Willie Towai and 33-year-old police officer Earlee Decherong.

"A decision to suspend a search is never quick or easy," said Capt. Casey White, Sector Guam commander. "We completed a thorough review of all available information and search activities to date, and took in account the large area we were able to search under good conditions with a large number of different resources. Ultimately, we made the tough decision to suspend the active Coast Guard search effort. Authorities in Palau have not stopped searching and Sector Guam will continue to support their efforts."

Coast Guardsmen aboard a MH-65 Dolphin helicopter and C-130 from Air Station Barbers Point, the Honolulu-based crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Jarvis, Palau's Pacific Patrol Boat H.I. Remeliik, and a number of other local supporters came together for the search.

Anyone with additional information concerning this case should contact Coast Guard Sector Guam immediately at 671-564-USCG. ***(USCG)***


The Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Association and its 2012 Candidates wish everyone a blessed Holy Week and Easter Holiday.
REPUBLICAN PARTY
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Paid for by the Republican Party of the NMI Association.

Business

New effort by MDs to cut wasteful medical spending

WASHINGTON (AP)—Old checklist for doctors: order that test, write that prescription. New checklist for doctors: first ask yourself if the patient really needs it.

Nine medical societies representing nearly 375,000 physicians are challenging the widely held perception that more health care is better, releasing lists Wednesday of tests and treatments their members should no longer automatically order.

The 45 items listed include most repeat colonoscopies within 10 years of a first such test, early imaging for most back pain, brain scans for patients who fainted but didn't have seizures, and antibiotics for mild-to-moderate sinus distress.

Also on the list: heart imaging stress tests for patients without coronary symptoms. And a particularly sobering recommendation calls for cancer doctors to stop treating tumors in end-stage patients who have not responded to multiple therapies and are ineligible for experimental treatments.

Dr. Christine Cassel, president of the American Board of Internal Medicine, said the goal is to reduce wasteful spending without harming patients. She suggested some may benefit by avoiding known risks associated with medical tests, such as exposure to radiation.

"We all know there is overuse and waste in the system, so let's have the doctors take responsibility for that and look at the things that are overused," said Cassel. "We're doing this because we think we don't need to ration health care if we get rid of waste." Her group sets standards and oversees board certification for many medical specialties.

The recommendations come at a time when American health care is undergoing far-reaching changes. No matter what the Supreme Court decides on President Barack Obama's health overhaul, employers, lawmakers, insurers and many doctors are questioning how the United States spends far more on medical care than any other economically advanced country and still produces mediocre results overall.

Until now, the health care system has rewarded doctors for volume. Now the focus is shifting to paying for results and coordination. That explains the urgency for doctors themselves to identify areas of questionable spending.

It's unclear how much money would be saved if doctors followed the 45 recommendations rigorously. Probably tens of billions of dollars, and maybe hundreds of billions over time. That would help, but come nowhere near solving, the problem of high health care costs.

The nation's medical bill hit $2.6 trillion in 2010. A major quandary for cost-cutters is that most of the spending is attributable to a relatively small share of very sick people.

Is this the end of the gold rush?

NEW YORK (AP)—The price of gold, which has climbed for years like a blood pressure reading for anxious investors, plunged Wednesday to its lowest level in three months.

Gold fell almost $58 to $1,614 per ounce. It has declined 15 percent since September, when it hit a peak of $1,907. It had more than doubled since the financial crisis three years earlier.

Surprisingly, the fall came on an ugly day in the stock market—the Dow Jones industrial average lost 125 points. Last year, a day like Wednesday would have caused fearful investors to buy gold as a protective investment

"It's difficult to forecast, but I think the gold bull market is over," said Cetin Ciner, a professor of finance at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. He likened the surge in gold to dot-com stocks before they collapsed.

Some investors buy gold as a hedge against inflation, and minutes from a Federal Reserve meeting that came out Tuesday afternoon suggested that the central bank believes inflation remains under control.

Gold's attraction as an asset of refuge during crises also seems to have diminished. The economy has picked up, and worst-case scenarios in the United States and Europe have faded.

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

April 2012 Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month!

"A time to recognize that we each play a part in promoting the Social & emotional well-being of children and families in communities"

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
EASTER SUNDAY	PSS Spring Break Ends	CAN- School Presentation	CAN- School Presentation	Street Market (IB)		CAN-Volleyball Tournament (TBA)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
CAN-Volleyball Tournament (TBA)		CAN- School Presentation	CAN- School Presentation	Street Market (IB) T-Shirt design contest ends	Flame Tree Arts Festival-Begins	Flame Tree Arts Festival-Begins SAAM Jamboree

FREE GAS!

SIGN-UP...
✓ As a VOLUNTEER for youth activities!
Call Alex Olopai or Abner Venus
at 664-2599/287-2553.

CALL FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AT:

664-2563/2565 ON SAIPAN
532-9393 ON ROTA
433-2950 ON TINIAN

Nation

Nursing director thinks she was target of shooter

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—An administrator at a small Christian university where seven people were killed this week said Wednesday she was the gunman's primary intended target after she rejected his repeated requests for a refund of his tuition.

Ellen Cervellon, director of the nursing program at Oikos University, wasn't on campus Monday when her former student, One Goh, came looking for her then went on his rampage.

Two days later, in an interview with The Associated Press, a shaken Cervellon said the murders are haunting her.

"I have that weight on my shoulders and I don't know what to do with it," she said, her voice quavering. "Every single one of those students were going to be an excellent, excellent nurse. They're in my heart, and they always will be."

Oakland Police Chief Howard Jordan confirmed Cervellon was the apparent target. Officer Johnna Watson, a police spokeswoman, said later that police are looking into the possibility that other administrators had been targeted.

Goh, 43, was charged Wednesday with seven counts of murder and three counts of attempted murder, plus a special circumstance allegation of committing multiple murders that could make him eligible for the death penalty.

Goh

Shackled and showing little emotion, Goh said nothing during a brief court appearance other than a soft "yes" when the judge asked if he understood the charges. He did not enter a plea.

In a police affidavit, Officer Robert Trevino said Goh acknowledged going to Oikos on Monday with a .45-caliber handgun and four magazines of ammunition.

"He admitted to kidnapping a woman and forcing her from her office into a classroom at gunpoint," Trevino said in the statement. "He admitted to shooting and killing several people inside the classroom, before taking one of the victim's car keys and fleeing the scene in the victim's car."

Police arrested Goh about an hour after the shooting spree at a supermarket a few miles from campus.

Republicans try to shut down talk of becoming VP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tag. I'm not it.

Republicans considered to be up-and-comers are scrambling to declare a lack of interest in becoming Mitt Romney's running mate, taking themselves off the still-forming short list of would-be vice presidents. With Romney poised to win the GOP nomination in June, if not earlier, some of the focus has shifted to his pick for the No. 2 spot on the ticket. But no one is rushing forward and many of the top prospects are trying to shut down the conversation before it begins.

"I'm not going to be the vice president," Sen. Marco Rubio said Wednesday.

"If offered any position by Gov. Romney, I would say no," South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley told The Associated Press a day earlier.

"I've taken myself off the list," former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty said recently.

"It's humbling, but I'm not interested," New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez said.

It's not that bad of a job, is it? Well, it depends. John Nance Garner, who was President Franklin D. Roosevelt's vice president, described the job as "not worth a bucket of warm spit," among other characterizations.

Some of the would-be picks already have pretty good day jobs as governors: Mitch Daniels in Indiana, Bobby Jindal in Louisiana, Chris Christie in New Jersey and Bob McDonnell in Virginia. Rob Portman of Ohio and John Thune of South Dakota have seats in the Senate, and Paul Ryan of Wisconsin in the House.

Part of the dance is trying to appear uninterested in the role of designated attack dog and potential GOP front-runner for 2016 if Romney falls short in November. Part of it is also preserving a personal brand; campaigning for the second slot and coming up short is embarrassing, as Pawlenty remembers from his unsuccessful effort to become Sen. John McCain's running mate in 2008. McCain went with Sarah Palin.

And, potentially, no one wants to play second fiddle on a second-place ticket. If Romney falls short in his bid to make President Barack Obama a one-termer, the fresh faces in the GOP today might be tainted as losers heading into 2016 if the campaign goes badly.

ACROSS THE NATION

Some Hispanics want to tell more about background

WASHINGTON (AP)—A majority of Hispanics prefer to identify themselves according to their families' countries of origin, rather than by the government's suggested terms "Hispanic" or "Latino," Pew Hispanic Center reported Wednesday. The description preferred by 51 percent of Hispanics is Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or other culture they are tied to through family or ancestry. About a quarter surveyed said they identify as Latino or Hispanic first and a fifth said they tend to say American, according to Pew's survey. About 50 million people in the U.S. are Hispanic.

Calls show residents panicked over Colo. wildfire

DENVER (AP)—A woman believed killed in last week's devastating Colorado wildfire called 911 soon after the fire broke out, and authorities said Wednesday her call, along with that of a couple later found dead at their burned home, were among the early ones dispatchers received reporting the blaze. The 911 calls from March 26 raised further questions about emergency officials' response to last week's fast-growing fire, which damaged or destroyed more than two dozen homes and burned 6 square miles in the mountains southwest of Denver. The sheriff's office doesn't have a timeline of who called when but officials confirmed Appel's call to report smoke was among the early calls.

5 ex-cops sentenced in Katrina killings case

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A federal judge sentenced five former police officers to years in prison for the deadly shootings on a New Orleans bridge in the chaotic days following Hurricane Katrina but not before lashing out at prosecutors for allowing others involved to serve lighter penalties for their crimes. U.S. District Judge Kurt Engelhardt expressed frustration that he was bound by mandatory minimum sentencing laws to imprison former Sgts. Kenneth Bowen and Robert Gisevius and former officers Anthony Villavaso and Robert Faulcon for decades when other officers who engaged in similar conduct on the Danziger Bridge—but cut deals with prosecutors—are serving no more than eight years behind bars.

SETTSU-SAIPAN FRIENDSHIP BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
摂津 - サイパン　フレンドシップ　バスケットボール　トーナメント

THANK YOU SUPPORTERS & CONTRIBUTORS!

The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands (BANMI) would like to sincerely thank all of the individuals, schools, groups and companies for their outstanding cooperation, generous donations, contributive assistance and all other efforts which helped to make the

"2012 SETTSU-SAIPAN FRIENDSHIP BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT"

a huge success.

MOST VALUABLE (TITLE) SPONSORS
Tan Siu Lin Foundation
LANTECH
DELTA AIR LINES

BIG MAN (GOLD) SPONSORS
DFS GALLERIA
NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC

HOT SHOT (SILVER) SPONSORS
KKMP
IP&E Fueling Excellence
KSPN 2
FOREMOST

TOP ROOKIE (BRONZE) SPONSORS
i'm lovin' it
JOETEN ENTERPRISES, INC.
JOETEN SUPERSTORE
AllStar Sporting Goods
The Athlete's Foot
Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc. SSC Saipan MP

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Marianas High School, Principal Ms. Cherlyn Cabrera, Mr. James Feger and MHS Productions • The Office of the Governor and the 18th CNMI Legislature • Department of Community & Cultural Affairs (DCCA) Secretary Mr. Melvin Faisao and Acting Secretary Ms. Rhonda Nogis • The Division of Youth Services (DYS) Director, Ms. Laura Ogumoro • The Mayor's Office of Saipan, Mayor Donald Flores • Marianas Visitor's Authority • The CNMI Public School System, Commissioner of Education Dr. Rita Sablan and all Public and Private School Principals, Administrators and Teachers • United Filipino Organization (UFO) President, Mr. Romeo "Bong" Malasarte and Members • Translators, Mr. Jun Yamagishi and Mrs. Mamiko Oshima-Berger • National Basketball Development Officer, Mr. Elias Rangamar • The Officials of the Basketball Association of the NMI Referees Association • Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan • Saipan Tribune • Marianas Variety News • New Majestic Restaurant • Star Sands Plaza-I Love Saipan • Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods Saipan and Triple J Super Fresh Market • YS Enterprises, LLC • Cultura Athletics, LLC • Practical Solutions • Mr. Lawrence Camacho and all of the special volunteers who helped contribute to the successful staging of the tournament.

Asia

Afghan bomb kills at least 10, including 3 GIs

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber on a motorcycle killed at least 10 people, including three American soldiers, at a park in a relatively peaceful area of northern Afghanistan on Wednesday, part of an increase in violence at the start of the spring fighting season.

The Taliban, which claimed responsibility for the attack, are targeting Afghan and NATO security forces as they fight to assert their power and undermine U.S. efforts to try to build up the Afghan military, who will take the lead in combat responsibility over the next couple of years.

Shortly before noon, the bomber detonated his explosives at the gate of the park in Maimanah, the capital of Faryab province, police spokesman Lal Mohammad Ahmad Zai said. His target was unclear, but Zai said four of the 10 killed were Afghan police officers. At least 20 people were wounded, officials said.

In Kabul, NATO said three of its service members were killed in a bombing Wednesday in northern Afghanistan. It provided no other details about the attack or the nationalities of the three.

A senior U.S. defense official, however, confirmed that three were American troops killed in the Faryab bombing. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information.

Norway and Germany, which commands alliance operations in northern Afghanistan, said none of their troops were involved. Troops of other nationalities also serve in the area—most of them at a Norwegian base that works on partnering with Afghan troops so that they can eventually take control of security in the region.

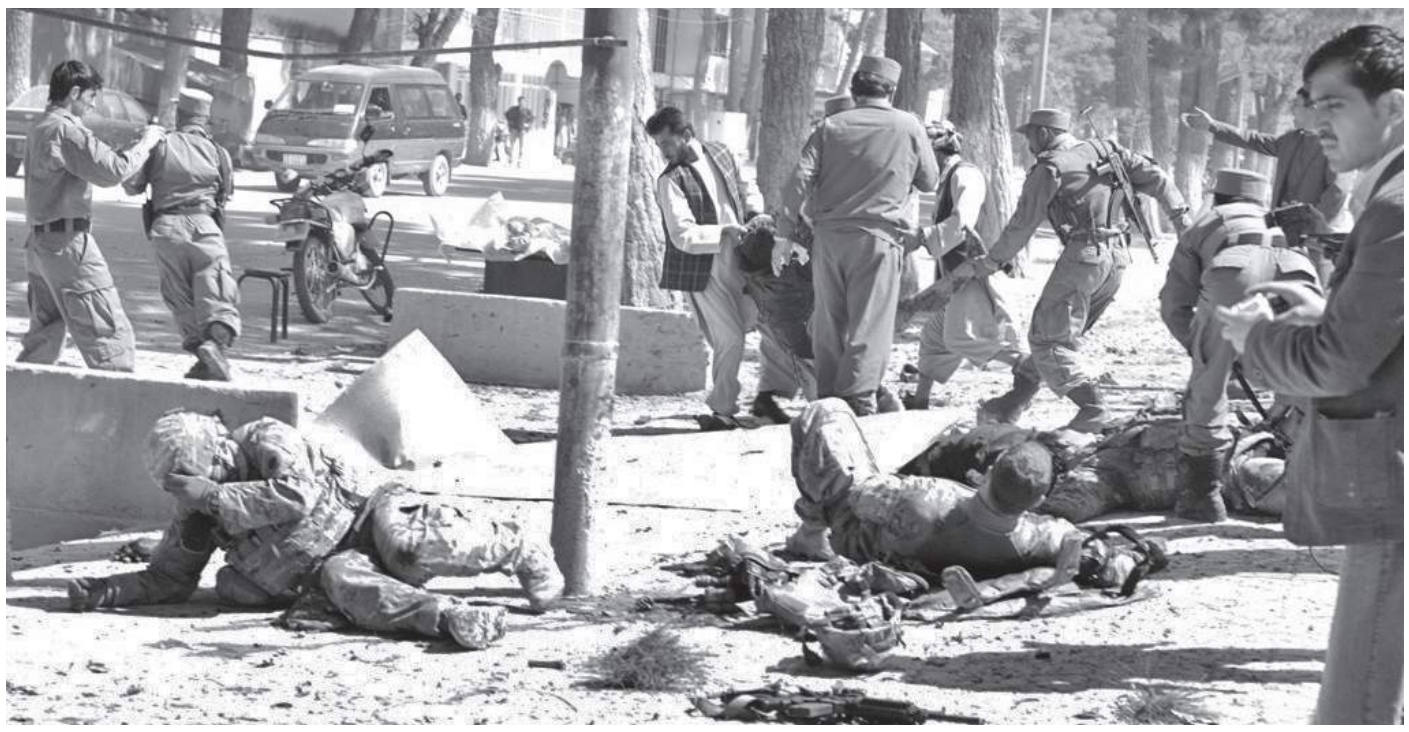
Associated Press video footage of the scene of the attack shows what appear to be dead Afghan civilians, police and foreign troops. Body parts are strewn around the gate and on the ground, which is spattered with blood.

In a statement on their Web site, the Afghan Taliban claimed killing 16 coalition troops and 12 Afghans in the Faryab suicide attack.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said a suicide bomber detonated his explosive belt among coalition forces in Maimanah as they were traveling to a park. He added that eyewitnesses said that the coalition troops indiscriminately fired their weapons, killing one civilian and wounding others. That report could not be confirmed.

Faryab is relatively calm but is a stronghold of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, or IMU, an al-Qaida affiliated group that has been most active in Afghanistan's northern provinces. The IMU was formed in 1991, originally aiming to set up an Islamic state in Uzbekistan, which borders Afghanistan. Later it expanded its goal to seeking an Islamic state across Central Asia.

On March 26, a joint Afghan and coalition force in Faryab killed the group's leader in Afghanistan, Makhdum Nusrat. The coalition said Nusrat had been leading attacks against Afghan and coalition troops in the north for the past eight months and was plotting the assassination of a member of parliament in Kabul.



AP

Wounded U.S. soldiers lie on the ground at the scene of a suicide attack in Maimanah, the capital of Faryab province north of Kabul, Afghanistan on Wednesday, April 4, 2012.

Militants also have stepped up their attacks against international and Afghan troops nationwide in recent weeks.

Nine Afghan policemen were killed and 11 were abducted across the nation in the past three days.

Fighting in Afghanistan usually wanes during the winter months as Taliban fighters take a break because of winter weather, only to surge in the spring. Heavy snow covers many of the mountain passes used by the Taliban and other insurgent fighters to cross mainly into eastern Afghanistan from safe havens in neighboring Pakistan.

Anger against foreign forces also has risen following a series of missteps, including the inadvertent burning of copies of the Muslim holy book and other religious materials in February and the massacre of 17 Afghan civilians allegedly by a rogue U.S. soldier. Foreign troops also have found themselves increasingly targeted by members of the Afghan national security forces, or militants posing in their uniforms.

So far this year, 97 NATO service members have been killed in Afghanistan, including at least 55 Americans.

Southeast Asian leaders: Lift Myanmar sanctions

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Southeast Asian leaders called for Western countries to immediately lift punitive sanctions imposed on Myanmar now that the once-pariah nation has embraced democratic reforms, and the U.S. took steps in that direction.

The leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations made the call Wednesday after concluding an annual summit in the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh. ASEAN member Myanmar was represented by President Thein Sein, who received a flurry of praise for his country's recent reforms, most recently Sunday's by-elections won by pro-democracy champion Aung San Suu Kyi and her party.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said the appeal for sanctions to be lifted would first be relayed to the European Union, which punished formerly military-ruled Myanmar for massive human rights violations.

"We called for the lifting of all sanctions on Myanmar immediately in order to contribute positively to the democratic process and economic development in that country," the heads of state said in a statement, promising to help when Myanmar assumes ASEAN's rotating chairmanship in 2014.

Later Wednesday, the United States said it will soon nominate an ambassador to Myanmar—its first in nearly 25 years—and ease some travel and financial restrictions. In Washington, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called Sunday's election a "dramatic demonstration of popular will that brings a new generation of reformers into government" that deserved recognition.

Many presidential and legislative sanctions remain against Myanmar, however. Many were imposed after Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won elections in 1990 that were annulled by the junta.

Clinton said the U.S. would continue to press hard for further reform, including a verifiable cut-off in military ties between Myanmar and North Korea, the release of all political prisoners and an end to decades of fighting with ethnic minorities.

During the two-day ASEAN summit, Thein Sein reported to the other leaders that the elections saw a huge turnout of voters and were held peacefully, drawing praise from his counterparts, Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-015

CALL CENTER SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Call Center Services for CUC Departments and Operating Centers located on Saipan, Tinian and Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **April 19, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-015, Call Center Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 9, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **April 23, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org; Janina Muna, Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

ASIA BRIEFS

4 dead in militant ambush in southern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Officials say al-Qaida-linked militants have killed three government militiamen and wounded seven others in an ambush on southern Basilan Island. The militants lost one fighter in the battle. Col. Ricardo Visaya says Abu Sayyaf rebels under senior leader Furuji Indama attacked auxiliary force members on patrol Thursday in a rubber plantation in remote Sumisip township. Visaya says the rebels withdrew after more than an hour of fighting. He says they are being pursued by troops.

Kazakh Muslims angry at alleged vodka blasphemy

ALMATY, Kazakhstan (AP)—Muslims in the Central Asian nation of Kazakhstan are up in arms at a vodka producer for including the word "Allah" on its liquor bottles. Privately owned Channel 31 cited Bekzat Boranbaiuly, head imam at a mosque in the city of Semey, as saying the vodka maker should seek forgiveness for the blasphemous use of the sentence "The Power of Allah Suffices for All." Islam strictly forbids drinking alcohol. Channel 31 said in its report Tuesday evening the vodka brand is available in most shops in the northern Kazakhstan city of Semey at an average price of $4.40.

Storm with typhoon-strength winds kills 4 in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—A powerful storm with typhoon-strength winds and heavy rain halted air and train traffic in Tokyo and killed four people around the country, officials said. The spring storm left the region Wednesday, but the Meteorological Agency urged caution as strong winds would persist in northern Japan. Winds of more than 144 kilometers (89 miles) per hour were recorded Tuesday as the storm swept across Japan's main island of Honshu. Police reported four deaths: two people killed in warehouse collapses, an elderly man who fell off a roof in Iwate and a woman crushed by a fallen tree in Miyagi. Hundreds more were injured.

Thai police arrest 2 suspects in hotel bombing

BANGKOK (AP)—Police say two suspects believed to be in a Muslim separatist gang have been arrested in connection with one of the deadly bombings last weekend in Thailand's restive south. National police chief Gen. Priewpan Damapong said Wednesday the pair were among 20 insurgents suspected of being responsible for the car bombing at a high-rise hotel Saturday. Three people died and more than 200 were injured in the attack at the Lee Gardens Plaza Hotel in the city of Hat Yai. Police also believe the attack was related to a bombing the same day in Yala province that killed 11 people.

World

Islamists impose sharia in Mali's Timbuktu

Rebels in northern Mali

A Tuareg rebel force, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad, has defeated Mali's army and taken control of part of the country's north.

// Tuareg area of Mali

Source: Los Angeles Times, AP, National Geographic, ESRI
Graphic: Los Angeles Times
© 2012 MCT

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—Mali's crisis deepened Wednesday, as officials in the fabled northern city of Timbuktu confirmed that the Islamic rebel faction that seized control of the town over the weekend has announced it will impose sharia law.

Rebels in the country's distant north have taken advantage of the power vacuum created last month when renegade soldiers in the capital of Bamako overthrew the nation's democratically elected leader. In the chaos that followed the March 21 coup, they advanced on strategic towns in the north, including the ancient city of Timbuktu, located over 620 miles (1,000 kilometers) from the capital.

The ethnic Tuareg rebels included a secular faction fighting for independence, and an Islamic wing, Ansar Dine, whose reclusive leader called a meeting of all the imams in the city on Tuesday to make his announcement.

"He had the meeting to make his message to the people known, that sharia law is now going to be applied," said the Mayor of Timbuktu Ousmane Halle, who was reached by telephone. "When there is a strongman in front of you, you listen to him. You can't react," he said, when asked what the reaction was of the imams of a historic town known for its religious pluralism and its moderate interpretation of Islam.

South Sudan says it shot down Sudanese jet

JUBA, South Sudan (AP)—South Sudan says it shot down a Sudanese fighter jet Wednesday after two military planes dropped bombs around its oil fields, but Sudan denied it had lost such an aircraft.

Military spokesman Col. Philip Aguer said the downed plane was a Sudanese MiG-29 jet fighter flying in South Sudan's Unity State, but Sudan's army spokesman denied any Sudanese jets were downed, saying the claim by the south lacked evidence.

"This is not right, and a claim that lacks evidence and proof. We affirm this is talk for media consumption only," Col. Sawarmy Khaled said.

He later told the official Sudan news agency that his forces came under attack, but they had not been using MIG jets.

"We would like to stress here that we have been the subject of attack by (southern) military groups, attack on our positions and we dealt with (the source) of the attack by artillery shelling," he said. "Talk about downing a plane is out of the question, because we did not use such a (MIG) plane which they say they have shot down."

Aguer said he had seen the confrontation and the downed Sudanese MiG was one of two flying over the Naar and Toma South oil fields. He said the two MiGs had dropped "many" bombs since morning.

Tourists ask UK for help on restaurants, romance

LONDON (AP)—Trouble-some tourists bombard British embassies with bizarre requests for help—seeking assistance booking restaurants, finding directions or making romantic advances toward locals, Foreign Secretary William Hague said Wednesday.

Announcing plans to bolster the response by diplomats to emergencies in other countries, Hague disclosed details of the wild demands made to embassies by traveling Britons.

A tourist in the United States called diplomats last year after he discovered ants in his Florida rental home, while a visitor to Spain requested help finding a suitable spot for Christmas lunch.

"We are not the people to turn to if you can't find your false teeth, if your sat nav is broken and you need directions ... if you are looking for a dog-minder while you are on holiday," Hague said, in a speech at Britain's Foreign Office.

He said a visitor to Greece had requested assistance erecting a chicken coop, while an anxious Briton urged consular staff in Italy to throw a coin into Rome's famous Trevi Fountain on his behalf, after forgetting to do so during a holiday.

According to tradition, tossing a coin into the waters guarantees a swift return to the Eternal City.

"Our commitment to good relations with our neighbors does not, I am afraid, extend to translating 'I love you' into Hungarian, as we were asked to do by one love-struck British tourist," Hague said.

He warned that some tourists risked wasting "time and scarce resources with ludicrous requests."

Hague announced plans to open a new crisis center to enable Britain's government to better handle emergencies overseas, to train more staff to respond and to set up 24-hour phone lines to offer advice to stranded British travelers and their families.

Britain faced criticism during the Libya crisis last year over its chaotic attempts to evacuate U.K. citizens.

"This will be our approach—maintaining and extending our diplomatic network so that we are in the right places to help British nationals, increasing our capacity to respond to crises and our accessibility to the public," Hague said.

Hague has announced plans to send extra diplomats to China and India, new ambassadors to Kyrgyzstan and South Sudan and to reopen posts in Madagascar, El Salvador and Somalia.

The country also plans to scale back almost all of its activities in Europe outside European capitals, meaning many staff based in cities including Munich, Milan and Barcelona will be deployed elsewhere.

"Changing customer demands and the opportunities of new technology mean we no longer need large established consulate offices in, for example, Florence and Venice," Hague said.

Somali theater bombing kills 10, shatters calm

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Two weeks ago, Somalia's National Theater reopened for the first time in 20 years for a concert that drew an audience in festive colors in a city trying to rise above war. A welcoming banner proclaimed: "The country is being rebuilt."

On Wednesday, the theater was turned into a scene of screams, chaos and blood when a suicide bomber attacked another high-profile event, killing 10 people, wounding dozens and shattering a tentative peace in the capital of Mogadishu.

The blast occurred as Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed Ali stood at the podium to deliver a speech. He was unharmed, said government spokesman Abdirahman Omar Osman, but the president of Somalia's Olympic committee and the head of its soccer federation were among the dead.

The government said a female suicide bomber carried out the attack. The Islamist militant group al-Shabab used its official Twitter feed to claim responsibility for the bombing.

The al-Qaida-linked organization said explosives had been planted in the theater before the event, but an Associated Press journalist at the scene said there was no large blast crater, making a suicide bombing more likely.

"It was a cowardly act and that will not deter the government from performing its national duties," Osman said. "The prime minister will energize the government to eliminate the terrorists."

AP

Somalis carry Somali Olympic Committee President Aden Yabarow Wiish from the bomb blast site at the Somali National Theater in Mogadishu, Somalia, Wednesday, April 4, 2012. Wiish was fatally wounded in the blast and died later in hospital.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **RESTROOM REPAIRS AND WATER PUMP IMPROVEMENTS** at the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-002-09)**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

All bids will be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Saipan International Airport Restroom Repairs and Water Pump Improvements, AIP 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-002-09)" and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of two (2) groups: Project 1 is existing restroom repair such as replacement of doors, plumbing fixtures, floor and wall tiles, ceilings, and all toilet accessories; mechanical fixtures; electrical fixtures; replacement of the existing hydro-pneumatic tank; mechanical rehabilitation and replacement of the existing water pump motor and controls, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications, and Project 2 is a Design-Build of Restroom I in accordance with the Design/Build Concept Plans and Specifications. Bidders are reminded that the Construction Management (CM) team is not available for design services for Project 2.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED SIXTY (360) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP-70-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

March 6, 2012
Date

Off the Wall

UK zoo's pandas meet for date, but will they mate?

LONDON (AP)—Zoo officials have created a private love nest for Britain's only pair of giant pandas in hope the fertility-challenged animals will mate—and Wednesday may be their last chance for quite a while.

Keepers at Edinburgh Zoo have opened a "love tunnel" between the enclosures of male Yang Guang and female Tian Tian in a bid to encourage mating, and have turned off the "panda cam" that allows people to watch the pandas online.

It is hoped the privacy will encourage the animals.

Giant pandas have difficulty breeding, with females fertile for only two or three days a year.

Zookeepers brought the pair together Tuesday after tests showed Tian Tian had ovulated. The zoo said that despite "encouraging" signs and some wrestling, they had not mated so far.

The 8-year-old animals met twice Wednesday and had come "closer than ever before" to mating, but again failed to do so, a zoo spokeswoman said.

AP

In this Dec. 12, 2011 file photo, a giant female panda named Tian Tian is seen exploring her enclosure at Edinburgh Zoo in Edinburgh, Scotland.

The zoo may try one last time Thursday, if the female panda's hormones showed signs she would still be receptive to mating.

The animals—whose names mean Sunshine and Sweetie—arrived from China in December.

They have been drawing a steady stream of visitors to the zoo, which has had to allocate time slots to accommodate those hoping to view the pandas.

The pair, who are on loan, were also removed from public view in January when they were treated for colic.

They are the first pandas to live in Britain in nearly two decades.

$12,000 left at restaurant: Gift or drug money?

By DINESH RAMDE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Minnesota waitress who says a customer told her she could keep a box containing $12,000 has sued after police impounded the cash as suspected drug money.

Stacy Knutson of Moorhead, Minn., filed a lawsuit asking that the cash be returned to her. She said she believes the money was meant as an anonymous gift from someone who knew that she, her husband and five children were struggling with severe financial difficulties.

"I do know that the person gave me what was in that to-go bag," Knutson wrote in the lawsuit filed in March. "Thus as I understand it, it is mine."

A message left at Knutson's home Wednesday was returned by her attorney, Craig Richie, who said his client is "overwhelmed" and didn't want to speak to a reporter.

The lawsuit says Knutson was working at the Fry'n Pan restaurant when a customer left behind a takeout box from another restaurant. She followed the diner to her car and tried to return the box but the lady said, "No, I am good, you keep it," the lawsuit said.

When Knutson went back into the kitchen and opened the box, she found three wads of bills—$100s, $50s, $20s and $10s—wrapped in rubber bands, Richie said.

Even though she really needed the money, she decided to call police, her attorney said.

Officers told her to wait 90 days in case someone claimed the money. No one did but police still refused to return the cash, saying it was being held in a drug investigation because it smelled of marijuana, Richie said.

But if Knutson believed the diner was the rightful owner of the cash, and that the diner gave her explicit permission to keep the money, why would Knutson even bother going to police?

"She's saying, hey, this is a lot of money," Richie said. "She doesn't want to be in a position where she's doing something wrong."

After no one claimed the money, that confirmed for her that the money was truly a gift, Richie said.

Moorhead police Lt. Tory Jacobson said when money is usually found and turned over to police, the finder can keep it if no one claims it in 90 days. But in a narcotics case, the money goes to the county attorney's office unless the finder persuades a judge to award the cash to them, he said.

"That doesn't mean she can't raise the issue with the judge," Jacobson said of Knutson. "It's just not the police department's decision to make."

Richie said police told him they smelled marijuana on the bills and that a police dog confirmed their suspicions. Jacobson acknowledged that a police dog detected an unspecified drug.

But Richie said at least one of Knutson's co-workers took a deep whiff of the bills to jokingly see what that much money smells like, and the man didn't detect any scent of marijuana.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

NY police find stolen truck as it's being buried

MURRAY, N.Y. (AP)—Authorities say investigators using a helicopter to find a stolen 26-foot-long truck spotted a man using a bulldozer to bury the vehicle in a western New York sand pit. The Orleans County Sheriff's Office tells the Daily News of Batavia that investigators alerted deputies, who went to a construction business in the town of Murray and took the owner and his son into custody. Officials say the box truck was stolen last week from a business in Wayne County. Police were told the vehicle may have been taken to Murray, 25 miles west of Rochester. Investigators say when they flew over the sand pit, the owner's son was in the process of burying the stolen truck using a bulldozer.

Iowan accused of urinating on co-workers' chairs

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—An information technology worker accused of urinating on colleagues' chairs at an office in Iowa has surrendered to police. The Des Moines Register reports that 59-year-old Raymond Foley turned himself in Saturday to face a charge of second-degree criminal mischief. Police say some co-workers had complained about stains on their chairs. A security system was installed, and police say it caught Foley in the act. Police documents say Foley looked up employee photos in the agency database and then would go into the office during off hours and urinate on their chairs. The chair damage was estimated at $4,500.

Science & Technology

Make the most of your mobile signature

By TYLER DUKES
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

QUESTION: When sending from a smart phone, tablet, etc., why do people put a phrase such as "Sent from my iPhone" or "Verizon Wireless Phone" or whatever device they are using? I see no value in adding an extra line in an email like that. Who really cares where it was sent from? What difference does it make?—Jim W., Fuquay-Varina, N.C.

ANSWER: As a late adopter of the smartphone, I remember feeling an involuntary spasm of jealousy the first time I ever read that line in an email on my obsolete desktop. At the time, it smacked of pretension.

A few years (and two smartphones) later, I barely notice the announcements anymore because they're so ubiquitous—and indicative of a time when our email is only as far away as our pockets.

The message comes standard in most smartphone email clients as part of a default signature line. Although it may seem useless, it does provide some value depending on the audience.

Daniel Post Senning, online content manager and etiquette expert for the Emily Post Institute, first remembers seeing the line attached to messages sent from BlackBerrys. Then they started showing up as part of comments from power users on his website.

"I felt like it was giving me a bit more information about how that person was communicating," Post Senning said. "The day it was possible for me to put up a mobile version of our website, I did it."

While it doesn't let you off the hook for sloppy writing, lines like these can provide disclaimers of sorts for people like me who tend to mistype things on virtual keyboards. But the messages work better if you customize them. By going into the settings of my phone's email client, I changed my signature to "Sent from my phone, so please excuse my typos."

Post Senning says signature lines can communicate much more, so it's worth changing the default from a blatant marketing message to something with real value. Even more important, he said, is to be mindful of the recipients and their expectations. That advice isn't likely to change, regardless of fast-evolving technology.

"Manners are changing all the time, and being a five-generation business, we get to comfort people and tell them, 'Don't worry,' " Post Senning said. "The fundamental rules of human relationships don't change."

Paramount to add 500 films to YouTube rentals

NEW YORK (AP)—YouTube and Paramount Pictures have reached a deal to make nearly 500 films available to rent online, even while their parent companies continue to feud over a $1 billion lawsuit.

The agreement announced Wednesday makes Paramount the fifth major Hollywood studio to join YouTube's online video store, a growing rental library that typically charges $2 to $4 per viewing. 20th Century Fox is now the only major studio holdout.

But Paramount seemed less likely to join given that its parent company, Viacom Inc., is still pursuing a 2006 lawsuit that seeks damages for alleged piracy by YouTube, which is owned by Google Inc. A federal judge in New York ruled in 2010 that YouTube hadn't broken U.S. laws governing digital piracy, but Viacom is appealing the decision.

The Paramount films will be available on YouTube Rentals and Google Play. Online movies and pay-per-view options have spurred heated competition between Google, Apple Inc.'s iTunes store, Amazon.com Inc.'s website and the subscription video service from Netflix Inc.

The sights, sounds of bad power supply

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I think I may have a bad power supply unit on my Dell PC. But, so I can be sure, what are the symptoms of a bad power supply?—Brett Smith, Plymouth, Minn.

A: You need to change the settings on the Cox Communications spam filter, which comes from a company called SpamBlocker.

ANSWER: Fortunately, there are plenty of warning signs of an impending failure in your PC's power supply, which converts alternating current from a wall outlet into direct current that your PC can use.

But remember, a bad power supply should be replaced, not repaired. Some electronic components inside can store a big enough electrical charge to be dangerous.

Some signs of power supply failure are obvious: cracking and popping noises when you start the PC, a spark or smoke in the power supply itself, or the smell of burning electronic components.

Other signs are more subtle: When you turn on your PC, you should be able to hear the cooling fan start to run and the hard disk start to spin. If those things don't happen, the power supply may be going bad.

Other telltale signs that indicate the PC is getting only intermittent power:

- The PC doesn't start up properly, or abruptly reboots while in use.
- You receive error messages about the PC's memory.
- The hard drive makes clicking, humming or beeping noises.

■■■

Q: I recently switched from Verizon to Cox Communications for home Internet service. Since then, I have been getting 50 to 60 spam emails per day. What happened, and how do I stop it, short of changing my email address?—Jim Holladay, Sahuarita, Ariz.

The filter scans incoming email before it reaches you; the settings you use determine how thoroughly it blocks spam.

You can choose to automatically delete incoming spam, which runs the risk that you might lose something that's not really spam. You can also have spam forwarded to the SpamBlocker folder in your Cox email, but you'd need to check it often because that folder is emptied automatically after 21 days. Or you can have the incoming spam labeled "spam" and sent on to your inbox, where it will stay until you choose to do something with it. For details, see http://www.tinyurl.com/87c6hu2.

Cox also offers tips on how to minimize the amount of spam you receive, at http://tinyurl.com/85xk575. Their tips include the sound advice that you should never click "unsubscribe" on a spam email in the belief you'll be taken off a mailing list. That just proves that your email address works and guarantees you'll receive even more spam.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Life & Style

Hollie Cavanaugh fails to ignite on 'Idol'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollie Cavanaugh didn't give the judges a good feeling on "American Idol."

The demure 18-year-old singer from McKinney, Texas, fizzled Wednesday with her rendition of "Flashdance" by Irene Cara during an evening of 1980s tunes on the Fox talent competition. After her performance, "Idol" judge Jennifer Lopez warned Cavanaugh to stop listening to everyone and "let it go" when she's performing on stage. Steven Tyler was more blunt.

"Your pitch was all over the place," he said. "I'm so sorry to tell you."

The panel also wasn't in love with Elise Testone's take on "I Want to Know What Love Is" from Foreigner. Tyler told the rocker, who impressed with Led Zeppelin's "Whole Lotta Love" last week, that he didn't think it was the "right song choice," while Randy Jackson informed the 28-year-old teacher from Charleston, S.C., that she was "much better than this."

"It was just out of tune everywhere for me," he said.

There was much more praise for the other finalists, including 20-year-old face painter Colton Dixon of Murfreesboro, Tenn., with Cyndi Lauper's "Time After Time"; growly 21-year-old pawn shop worker Phillip Phillips of Leesburg, Ga., with Genesis' "That's All"; and 17-year-old student Deandre Brackensick of San Jose, Calif., with DeBarge's "I Like It."

AP

In this undated image released by Fox, clockwise from left, "American Idol" contestants Skylar Laine, Phillip Phillips, Colton Dixon, DeAndre Brackensick, Elise Testone, Jessica Sanchez, Hollie Cavanagh and Joshua Ledet pose in Los Angeles.

"I like it," Lopez told the curly haired singer. "I like it a lot."

The judges were on their feet for a gospel-infused version of Simply Red's "If You Don't Know Me by Now" from 19-year-old student Joshua Ledet of Westlake, La. They were also pleased with Whitney Houston's "How Will I Know" from 16-year-old student Jessica Sanchez of San Diego. The closing take on Bette Midler's "Wind Beneath My Wings" from Skylar Laine incited a very different kind of reaction: Lopez was on the verge of tears.

"I wanted to show my full range, and I hope I did tonight," said the 18-year-old country rocker from Brandon, Miss.

Between the individual performances, the eight finalists paired up for male-female duets: Laine and Dixon waded through "Islands in the Stream" by Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton, Brackensick and Cavanaugh took on "I'm So Excited" by the Pointer Sisters, and Phillips and Testone bonded for "Stop Dragging My Heart Around" by Stevie Nicks and Tom Petty.

For DeGraw, life is 'Sweeter' off the dance floor

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—The voters showed they weren't quite over pop star Gavin DeGraw and pro partner Karina Smirnoff on Tuesday night's "Dancing With the Stars" elimination round. Soap star Jack Wagner and his partner were eliminated instead.

But even though DeGraw doesn't admit it, getting booted from "Dancing" probably wouldn't be a total heartbreaker for the singer-songwriter, whose current album, "Sweeter," has produced a platinum single, "Not Over You." What's more, the title track just dropped as the album's third single.

DeGraw's been promoting the record in a nationwide concert tour while doing "Dancing" two nights a week, plus rehearsals. So understandably, the 35-year-old looked exhausted in an interview following a recent performance on Jay Leno's show.

Knowing he had a hot record to push, what the heck was he thinking when he signed on for "Dancing"?

DeGraw

"This will make my grandmother so proud," DeGraw responds.

"My grandmother's father was a dance instructor in the Catskill Mountains, in the heyday of the Catskills ... and he's the legend in the family because he used to kick it with all the stars at the time and he'd give dance lessons at night," DeGraw explains. "That kind of added to this nostalgia element that I kind of felt that I should learn this skill."

So far, DeGraw has demonstrated he's probably a better singer than he is a dancer, having landed in the bottom-two of contestants the last two weeks. Fortunately, he's got some heavy-duty friends to offer consolation, including OneRepublic front man Ryan Tedder, who co-wrote both "Not Over You" and "Sweeter."

The two first met at one of those all-star-jam concert events. "I said, `Hey, man, I love your stuff,'" DeGraw recalls. "And he said, `Hey, man. I love your stuff. Oh, we should do something.' So that was a conversation between artists, and when artists talk about doing something, obviously it's never gonna happen."

Obviously.

Once his "Dancing" days are done, DeGraw says he'd love to get going on a tribute album featuring some of his soul-surviving heroes, especially R&B great Gladys Knight, one of his "Dancing" competitors.

"I've already asked her twice," he says. "She's a legend, and in the field that I happen to be in. And when you're around somebody like that, that you've been hearing your whole life, you have to take the opportunity and go for it."

Autopsy: White residue on spoon in Houston's room

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Whitney Houston was found face-down in a bathtub with cocaine in her system and drug paraphernalia on the bathroom counter nearby, investigators revealed in the singer's final autopsy report released Wednesday.

The report delivered a grim accounting of Houston's final hours nearly three months ago. The singer complained of a sore throat before an assistant suggested she take a bath before the start of a pre-Grammy Awards gala. By the time the assistant returned, Houston had drowned and was lying face down in the tub.

Investigators who scoured the room later found in the bathroom a "spoon with a white crystal like substance in it," and a white powdery substance in a drawer and on a mirror, according the report. The report does not specifically identify the substances as cocaine, although toxicology tests discovered the drug in Houston's heart and extremities.

The report provides a sad footnote to Houston's life, revealing the toll the singer's drug use took on her body.

When coroner's officials said two weeks ago that Houston died from accidental drowning, they also revealed that cocaine had played a role in her death. The office has said there were signs of both chronic and recent use.

An investigator noted a hole in the singer's nose, listed under "history of substance abuse."

Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter said he could not discuss how recently Houston may have used cocaine, or other details of the final report.

Beverly Hills police Lt. Mark Rosen said the investigation is still open and he could not comment on the findings. The department has said there did not appear to be signs of foul play.

On her final day alive, Houston complained she had a sore throat for several days, and an assistant suggested she take a bath, according to the report. By the time her assistant returned, Houston had been submerged for at least an hour, the report estimates.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS
Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!
Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$6.00	Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$6.00	All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.75	All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$6.00	Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$6.00	Military with Valid I.D.

T TIMEWARP TUESDAY
$6.00 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com
dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

Friday, Apr. 6th through Thursday, Apr. 12th, 2012
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★

American Reunion
Friday and Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Monday thru Thursday 4:05 7:05
Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
The American Pie series comes full circle as the characters from the 1999 comedy classic return to East Great Falls for their 10 year high school reunion, and experience a weekend they will never forget. While some like Jim (Jason Biggs) and Michelle (Alysson Hannigan) got serious and tied the knot, others like Oz (Chris Klein) and Heather (Mena Suvari) went their separate ways. Meanwhile, Finch (Eddie Kaye Thomas) still looks back with lust at that perfect evening he spent with Stiffler's mom. Sean William Scott, Tara Reid, Thomas Ian Nicholas, and Shannon Elizabeth also star in a film featuring Eugene Levy and Natasha Lyonne.

★ ★ ★

Wrath Of The Titans
Friday and Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:35
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Monday thru Thursday 4:20 7:20
Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Warner Bros. and Legendary Pictures presents this follow-up to their mythological sword-and-sandal remake with this sequel penned by Dan Mazeau and David Leslie Johnson. Jonathan Liebesman (Battle: Los Angeles) handles direction duties, with Sam Worthington and Gemma Arterton returning as Perseus and Io.

Mirror Mirror
Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:50
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Monday thru Thursday 4:30 7:30
Julia Roberts, Lily Collins
Fantasy • Rated PG

The Hunger Games
Friday and Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Monday thru Thursday 4:00 7:00
Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

21 Jump Street
Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Monday thru Thursday 4:25 7:25
Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum
Comedy, Action • Rated R

The Vow
Friday and Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Monday thru Thursday 4:15 7:15
Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum
Drama • Rated PG 13

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax
Friday and Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:30
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Monday thru Thursday 4:10 7:10
Zac Efron, Taylor Swift
Children's/Family • Rated PG

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.
www.gohollywood.com

Wife on the road grows uneasy with man's bar-hopping habits

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Dan," and I are in our early 30s and have been married five years. He's bright, sweet, outgoing and very good-looking. He is in excellent shape and works out at the gym daily.

Dan has become friendly with a group of men at the gym. Like him, they are all good-looking and in tip-top shape. They are also gay. One guy in particular, "Harry," has become quite close to my husband. He often jokes about "recruiting" Dan and comments on Dan's popularity with "the boys."

My work requires that I travel frequently, and Dan has been going out with Harry to gay bars where he gets "hit on" often. I can tell he likes the attention. I should also mention that Dan seems to be considerably less interested in sex lately.

I hate to think of my husband alone and lonely while I'm away, but his going to gay bars every night is beginning to worry me. If I say anything to him about it, he guilt-trips me about my travel.

Is it normal for a straight man to seek out the company of gay men? Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

GAY-FRIENDLY IN N.Y.C.

DEAR GAY-FRIENDLY: It is unusual for a straight man to frequent gay bars. But would you feel better if Dan was going to straight bars every night and being hit on by women while you're away?

Your greater concern, in my opinion, should be his change in pattern of behavior. If Dan is less interested in sex with you than he has been, then you need to find out why. I have always favored the direct approach. The person you should be discussing this with is your husband. When you do, be frank but not accusatory, and do not allow him to divert the conversation by making you feel guilty about your business travel.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm moving soon from Florida to New York. I have a 16-year-old Chihuahua named Pedro who is not in good health. I'm torn about what to do. Should I take him with me, or have him put to sleep? I am an animal lover and have always had pets, but this is the first time I have ever had this problem.

I'm renting a truck and will be driving up to New York. Some say the stress will be too much for Pedro. He's a little fighter, but at his age, I don't know how he will handle cold weather. He has lived in Florida his whole life. What do you think? I'm asking everyone's opinion.

LEAVING THE SUNSHINE STATE

DEAR LEAVING: You say Pedro is a fighter -- well, give him a fighting chance. He could surprise you and make it through next winter and several after that. However, although you are asking "everyone's" opinion, the one that should carry the most weight is Pedro's veterinarian.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My family has been having a debate over the issue of how the name "Jeanne" is pronounced. They think it is pronounced "Jean-nee," while I am certain it's pronounced the same as "Jean." Could you please help us with the correct pronunciation?

A DOVER, N.H., READER

DEAR READER: The name "Jeanne" can be pronounced either way, depending upon the Jeanne's preference. In my case, it has always been pronounced "Jean-nee."

However, if the name-caller is French, it might be pronounced "J'ahne," with a very soft "J"—ike Zsa-Zsa.

■ ■ ■ ■

TO MY JEWISH READERS: A happy Passover, everyone!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Even set in wax, UK young royals still fascinate

LONDON (AP)—Fake versions of Britain's young royals have prompted a real-life media scrum when they were unveiled at Madame Tussauds.

Photographers and TV crews jostled for position Wednesday as the museum unveiled waxwork figures of Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge. The couple had the same pose they had during their engagement announcement, with the former Kate Middleton smiling in her now-famous blue Issa dress.

Madame Tussauds' Liz Edwards predicts that the pair would become the attraction's most popular figures.

At an unveiling in Amsterdam the same day, child models were brought in to pose with scones in front of waxworks of the royal couple.

Madame Tussauds Amsterdam captured the Duchess of Cambridge's recent appearance at a movie premiere where she wore a lace Alice Temperley number.

Waxworks of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are unveiled at Madame Tussauds, London, Wednesday, April 4, 2012.

AP

Burger King apologizes to Blige over ad

NEW YORK (AP)—Burger King is apologizing to Mary J. Blige and her fans for releasing an ad that garnered the singer serious fan backlash.

The clip featured Blige soulfully singing about the fast-food chain's new chicken snack wraps. It immediately went viral when it was released Monday, and some in the black community said it was stereotypical. Burger King pulled the ad Tuesday over what the company said was a music licensing issue. The company explained Wednesday the spot was unfinished.

Blige

In a statement, Blige said she understood why fans were upset. She said the ad didn't come across the way it was planned and she would never put out an unfinished spot.

White

Betty White's brings her prank 'posse' to NBC

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Betty White is turning a team of pranksters loose on the younger generation.

The 90-year-old is the host and executive producer of "Betty White's Off Their Rockers," a new NBC show in the tradition of "Punk'd" and "Candid Camera."

White calls the show's performers her "posse." They set out to play tricks on young people.

The series is giving work to older actors who, White said, may find that "jobs don't come around as much as they used to."

White says the pranks aren't mean-spirited but do play off senior stereotypes to show how hollow they are.

"Betty White's Off Their Rockers," produced by Kinetic Content and Hallock Healey Entertainment, was adapted from a hit Belgian series. It debuts Wednesday on NBC.

Actor Bruce Willis offers to donate Idaho ski area

KETCHUM, Idaho (AP)—Bruce Willis says he's willing to give away his central Idaho ski resort to a nonprofit.

The action star has already put his lavish home in nearby Hailey, Idaho, on the market—it's listed at $15 million—along with his local bar and nightclub, The Mint—listed at about $4 million.

Now the Idaho Mountain Express (http://bit.ly/Hg4qN7) reports Willis may be severing another real estate tie to Idaho. The actor told Camas County leaders he is willing to give the Soldier Mountain ski area in Fairfield to the right nonprofit.

Willis, best known for the "Die Hard" series and "Sixth Sense," has owned the ski area since the late 1990s. It boasts 1,150 acres of in-bounds terrain, and its three lifts give access to a vertical rise of 1,425 feet.

Soldier Mountain is popular with families, serving as a laid-back alternative to the swanky Sun Valley ski resort about 65 miles away.

Willis' Soldier Mountain Development owns and operates the ski hill on public land under a U.S. Forest Service special-use permit.

At least one nonprofit has expressed interest in his offer.

John Palan, with the local Soldier Mountain Recreation Association, says his group is hoping to get enough help from donors to take over the ski area's operations.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Palin helps keep 'Today' ahead vs. Couric on 'GMA'

NEW YORK (AP)—Sarah Palin helped "Today" maintain its winning streak against "GMA," even with the appearance of its own guest star Katie Couric. NBC's "Today" widened its advantage over ABC runner-up "Good Morning America" by 23,000 viewers Tuesday, compared with the day before, according to the Nielsen Co. "Good Morning America" brought Couric back to morning TV after her many years hosting "Today." Couric, now at ABC, is filling in all week at "GMA." Palin appeared as a "Today" guest co-host on Tuesday. "Today" drew 5.5 million viewers, while "GMA" had 356,000 fewer people tuning in. On Monday, the gap dividing them was 333,000 viewers. This morning-show rivalry has intensified as "GMA" chips away at the audience margin that has kept "Today" in first place for 15 years.

Poet Henri Cole wins $50,000 Jackson prize

NEW YORK (AP)—Henri Cole has won the sixth annual Jackson Poetry Prize, a $50,000 honor meant to encourage writers considered to have exceptional talent and deserving of wider recognition. The award was announced Wednesday by Poets & Writers Inc., a nonprofit literary organization. Cole's eight poetry collections include "Touch" and "Middle Earth," a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2005. Cole is a native of Japan and is poetry editor for The New Republic, the politics and arts magazine based in Washington. The judges cited his poems for their "casual, anecdotal worldliness and natural diction." Previous winners of the Jackson prize include James Richardson and Elizabeth Alexander.

Gary Sinise cancels appearances after car accident

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gary Sinise is canceling appearances with his Lt. Dan Band after suffering injuries in a car accident. A spokeswoman for the actor says Sinise was a passenger in a car involved in an accident Friday. Staci Wolfe did not offer details about the extent of his injuries. The 57-year-old Sinise was to perform with his band at a fundraising event last weekend in Martinsville, Va., and next week in Palm Desert, Calif. The Martinsville concert will be rescheduled. The Palm Desert performance has been canceled. Sinise stars on TV's "CSI: NY." The show has completed production for the season and won't be affected by the actor's injuries.

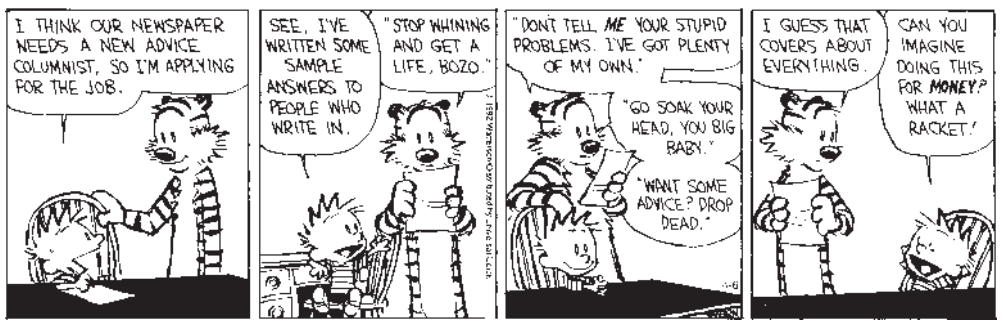
2 'Real Housewives' get their own shows on Bravo

NEW YORK (AP)—Two of "The Real Housewives" are getting their own shows on Bravo. The network announced Wednesday that Beverly Hills cast member Lisa Vanderpump will get her own reality show centered on the inner workings of her new Hollywood restaurant, SUR. Kandi Burruss from the Atlanta "Housewives" will star in "The Kandi Factory," inspired by a special of the same name that aired in March. Burruss will work with wannabe pop stars with no experience who want to make it in the music industry. Vanderpump and Burruss will continue to appear on "The Real Housewives" shows.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I THINK OUR NEWSPAPER NEEDS A NEW ADVICE COLUMNIST, SO I'M APPLYING FOR THE JOB.
SEE, I'VE WRITTEN SOME SAMPLE ANSWERS TO PEOPLE WHO WRITE IN.
"STOP WHINING AND GET A LIFE, BOZO."
"DON'T TELL ME YOUR STUPID PROBLEMS. I'VE GOT PLENTY OF MY OWN."
"GO SOAK YOUR HEAD, YOU BIG BABY."
"WANT SOME ADVICE? DROP DEAD."
I GUESS THAT COVERS ABOUT EVERYTHING.
CAN YOU IMAGINE DOING THIS FOR MONEY? WHAT A RACKET!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

IT HAS OCCURRED TO ME THAT I AM NO LONGER A LOSER
I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, PETS...
AN AWESOME SOCK COLLECTION...
LOSER
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
©2012 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY, EVERYBODY. PIZZA'S ON THE WAY.
CLAYTON, YOU GET PLATES. KATY, YOU GET NAPKINS.
LAURA, GET THE PARMESAN AND THE ACCORDIAN!
WE DON'T HAVE AN ACCORDIAN.
EXTRA PARMESAN THEN!
©2012 Universal Uclick www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I WANT THE CHEAPEST PHONE YOU'VE GOT. I DON'T NEED TEXTING, APPS, CAMERAS, KEYBOARDS, GAMES, GARAGE DOOR OPENERS...
G.P.S., VIDEO, CALENDARS, YOU TUBE, WEATHER REPORTS, ALARM CLOCKS, e-BOOKS, WEB BROWSERS OR STOCK UPDATES.
HERE. IT COMES WITH A 3-YEAR, $200 SERVICE PLAN.
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

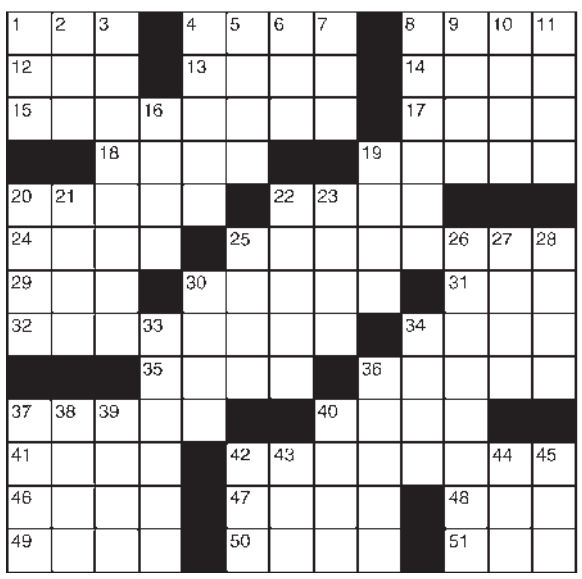
ACROSS
1 Energy
4 Car
8 Mexican money
12 Scull tool
13 Got bigger
14 Small stream
15 Wasteful
17 Exam format
18 Ashen
19 Last letter
20 Sleep soundly?
22 Pedestal part
24 Master of ceremonies
25 Crystalline mineral
29 "I — Camera"
30 Shuts loudly
31 Brazilian tourist mecca
32 Miami squad
34 Shape
35 Knocks
36 Coral producer
37 Let
40 Texas city
41 Laugh-a-minute
42 Saskatchewan, e.g.
46 Roundish hairdo
47 Aching
48 Eviscerate
49 Existed
50 On the rocks
51 Vast expanse

DOWN
1 Soda
2 Listener
3 Offer
4 Nimble
5 Incite
6 Afternoon social
7 Pussy-Cat's partner
8 Ads for upcoming shows
9 Green land
10 Refinery refuse
11 — podrida
16 Pub missile
19 Probability
20 Roe provider
21 Hideo of baseball
22 Campus VIPs
23 Charitable donations
25 Buy and resell quickly
26 Drags out
27 Ethereal
28 Cavort
30 "Pygmalion" writer
33 Atom component
34 Points of concentration
36 Macadamized
37 Bedouin
38 Bio title word, often
39 Traditional tales
40 Sported
42 Letter before 19-Across
43 Sindbad's bird
44 Prompt
45 Timetable abbr.

Solution time: 25 mins.

T	W	A	S	■	W	A	R	■	P	L	A	Y
H	E	M	P	■	H	U	E	■	L	I	N	E
H	A	I	L	■	E	G	G	■	U	N	I	T
U	N	R	O	L	L	■	A	M	M	O	■	■
■	■	■	T	I	M	E	T	A	B	L	E	S
B	R	A	C	E	■	E	T	C	■	E	M	T
O	A	T	H	■	B	R	A	■	P	U	M	A
O	N	O	■	S	R	I	■	W	O	M	A	N
I	I	M	E	P	I	E	C	E	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	R	A	Q	■	A	T	T	A	C	H
L	I	Z	A	■	U	R	N	■	A	R	E	A
A	C	E	S	■	E	I	N	■	G	I	S	T
M	E	R	E	■	T	O	Y	■	E	A	T	S

Yesterday's answer 4-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Eliza Coupe, 29; Candace Cameron Bure, 36; Zach Braff, 37; Paul Rudd, 43.

Happy Birthday: Think matters through before making a move. Don't allow anyone to push you into something that doesn't feel right. A change in the way you present who you are will improve the way you are treated and help you advance much faster. Rely on your skills and talent. Your numbers are 2, 6, 13, 24, 32, 34, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Add excitement to your life. Engage in activities that enable you to make friends or partner with someone who is diverse, entertaining and interested in the same topics, events and activities as you are. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Put extra effort into your job. Check your work to make sure you haven't deviated from the requirements you were given. Sticking to what's expected of you and finishing on time will be what draws attention and prompts advancement. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Check out your options before making a commitment. Socializing with established individuals will enable you to work toward your goals and change the way others view who you are and what you are capable of contributing. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't cause a scene. A little honest input and a creative contribution will help you complete what's unfinished. Don't let emotions take over, leaving you vulnerable to giving in to someone or something you don't agree with. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Change will do you a world of good. A short trip or spending time with someone who fascinates you will lead to a better attitude and progress in your personal life. Make a commitment that will improve your lifestyle. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Finish what you start. You will be judged on your ability to do the right thing in the shortest amount of time. An unusual contractual agreement will make you question your direction. Get all the facts before you make a move. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Go about making the alterations in your life that will improve your personal position. Getting a different perspective on something you've been working toward will help you change your plans to better suit your needs. Love is in the stars. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put more effort into home and family, and make the changes needed to stabilize your personal life. A creative idea will be well-received. A move or lifestyle change will help you connect with people who have something to offer professionally. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't trust someone who is trying to push you in a different direction. You will face uncertainty when it comes to a partnership that may need to be re-evaluated. Consider your options and choose your direction. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Size up your situation and address the issues you need to control. Expect someone to make a last-minute change that has the potential to ruin your plans. Accept the inevitable, but stay on course and you will benefit in the end. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A money deal or making a wise move that will reduce your overhead or make your place more comfortable should be looked at carefully. It's up to you to decide what changes you need to make to achieve the happiness you deserve. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Opportunity knocks, but you have to open the door. Don't let a personal relationship dictate what you can or cannot do professionally. You have to go where the action is if you want to take advantage of what's being offered. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, compassionate and a peacemaker. You are adaptable and intuitive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6	3			2		
	3		4					
8				9	2			1
5	7					3		
		2				1		
		8					9	5
1			8	5				2
					9		7	
		5			7	4		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	5	2	8	7	4	9	3
8	3	2	9	4	5	7	6	1
9	4	7	6	1	3	5	8	2
7	8	3	1	9	6	2	4	5
2	5	4	3	7	8	9	1	6
1	9	6	4	5	2	3	7	8
3	2	1	7	6	9	8	5	4
4	7	8	5	2	1	6	3	9
5	6	9	8	3	4	1	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GYM MEMBERSHIPS Solution: 9 letters

P	P	C	A	N	C	E	L	T	Y	D	O	B	A	M
A	R	H	L	F	E	E	S	A	L	E	S	I	P	I
Y	I	O	E	A	C	C	E	S	S	R	E	K	P	W
M	V	O	M	A	S	L	O	O	T	O	W	E	L	S
E	A	S	O	O	L	S	T	A	F	F	A	S	Y	Y
N	T	E	N	I	T	T	E	N	I	H	C	A	M	L
T	E	V	T	D	G	I	H	S	P	O	R	T	S	I
S	R	I	H	R	N	I	O	J	E	L	C	S	U	M
S	M	T	L	A	I	F	U	N	D	S	A	F	E	A
D	S	C	Y	C	N	T	R	S	S	E	N	T	I	F
G	O	A	L	S	I	R	S	P	E	C	I	A	L	T
Y	C	L	P	P	A	I	N	V	E	S	T	O	N	E
M	I	I	S	L	R	A	M	E	N	I	T	I	E	S
S	A	F	M	A	T	L	O	C	K	E	R	S	I	S
C	L	E	A	N	O	I	T	A	C	O	L	L	L	A

© 2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 4/6

Access, Active, Amenities, Apply, Asset, Bikes, Body, Cancel, Cardio, Choose, Classes, Clean, Family, Fees, Fitness, Funds, Goals, Gyms, Health, Hours, Invest, Join, Life, Location, Lockers, Machine, Monthly, Muscle, Pass, Payments, Plan, Private, Promotions, Safe, Sales, Social, Special, Sports, Staff, Swim, Term, Tips, Tone, Tools, Towels, Training, Trial

Yesterday's Answer: Recruit

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 28 by Penzle Inc. ©2012 Universal Uclick. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved. Puzzles, terms, and software created exclusively by Penzle Inc. Visit us at www.wonderword.com. Contact us at WONDERWORD 1130 Washington, Kansas City, MO 64105 or toll-free at 1-800-642-6480. Comments and suggestions welcome. Contains 48 puzzles. Printed in the U.S.A.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

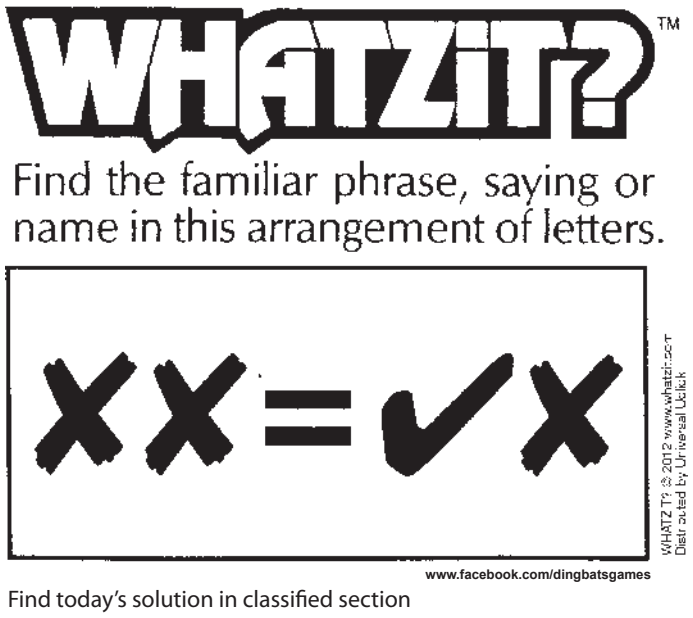
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.


WHATZIT?
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
XX=✓X
WHATZ IT? © 2012 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick
www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

PUBLIC NOTICE

PIC's Point Break flowrider will be closed for planned repair and maintenance from April 9~27, 2012. We apologize for the inconvenience during this time and thank you for your cooperation and patronage.

PIC Management

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

Joe-Ann J. Hernaez Petitioner	]	**FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0176**
vs.	]	
Janice F. Hernaez Respondent,	]	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 230 10000 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 5th day of March, 2012

/s/ Clerk of Court

KING LAW OFFICE
Janet H. King
P.O. Box 520030 Tinian MP 96952
Ph: (670) 433 0419 235 8060
Fx: (670) 235 8070
Counsel for Plaintiff

LAW OFFICES OF LOREN A. SUTTON
D'Torres Building, Garapan, Saipan
P.O. BOX 5593
SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: (670) 989 0627
FAX: (670) 235-8070
Co-Counsel for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

FRANCISCO Q. GUERRERO Plaintiff	]	**CASE NO. 12-0046**
vs.	]	
KIM, CHANG OK Defendant	]	**AMENDED SUMMONS**

TO DEFENDANT: KIM, CHANG OK

YOU ARE HEREBY summoned and notified to file an answer, you make to the Amended Complaint. A copy of the Amended Complaint will be published in the Saipan Tribune Newpaper, and posted on the Superior Court Bulletin Board in Susupe, Saipan. You must file your Answer within twenty one days after publication of this Summons for four consecutive weeks, and deliver a copy of your answer to Loren A. Sutton, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is P.O. BOX 5593, SAIPAN MP 96950 as soon as practicable after filing your answer and sending it to this Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed by you or for you, by your counsel, and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 22d day of March 2012.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P. O. Box 504340
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070
e-mail "joshuaberger711@hotmail.com"

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

ISLA FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., Plaintiff,	]	**CIVIL CASE NO. 07-0324 A**
vs.	]	**SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**
DARCY BILL S. MARATITA and MELDA M.C. MARATITA, Defendants.	]	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint in this matter, a copy of which may be obtained at the law office below or the Superior Court, within **twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication** of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor , D' Torres Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Sususpe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:

DATED March 30, 2012

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

Colin M. Thompson, Esq.
Thompson Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, JET Building
Middle Road, Gualo Rai
PMB 917, Box 10001
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 233-0777
Facsimile: (670) 233-0776

Attorney for Plaintiffs

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ZENAIDA B. MANSAY, SHIERA CELINE M. ABADILLA and SHAINA RUZEN M. ABADILLA, Plaintiffs,	]	**Civil Action No. 10-0190**
vs	]	**SUMMONS**
VICENTE N. CRUZ, Defendant.	]	

TO: DEFENDANT, VICENTE N. CRUZ

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to appear and defend the claims presented in this Complaint, a copy of which is given you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you and deliver or mail a copy of your Responsive Pleading to the Plaintiff's counsel whose address is at Thompson Law Office, LLC, 2nd Floor JET Building, PMB 917, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practicable after filing your Responsive Pleading.

Your Responsive Pleading to the Complaint should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, CNMI. It may be prepared and signed by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by electronic filing or by messenger or mail. It is not necessary to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to appear and defend in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the Court.

Dated this 29th day of June, 2010

/s/Clerk of Court

WHATZIT Solution: Two wrongs don't make a right

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

FOR SALE

Weiner Pigs for Sale
Bore/sow on site.
Call to see - 322-0268

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For $200.00 / month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

FOR RENT

4 bdrms, 2bath, newly renovated concrete hse & (2 units) of 1 bdrm at lower Asteo. Huge yard near ocean. Yard cleaning & trash collection included. Please call 2850622. Prices are negotiable.

For Rent/Lease

Anaks Condo, 2BRs, washer/dryer, ceiling fans, a/c, storage, r/o water, swimming pool, tennis court, gated, 24/7 security. Ideal location, close to central Garapan. Call Ron Barrineau 322-4785 or 483-4785.

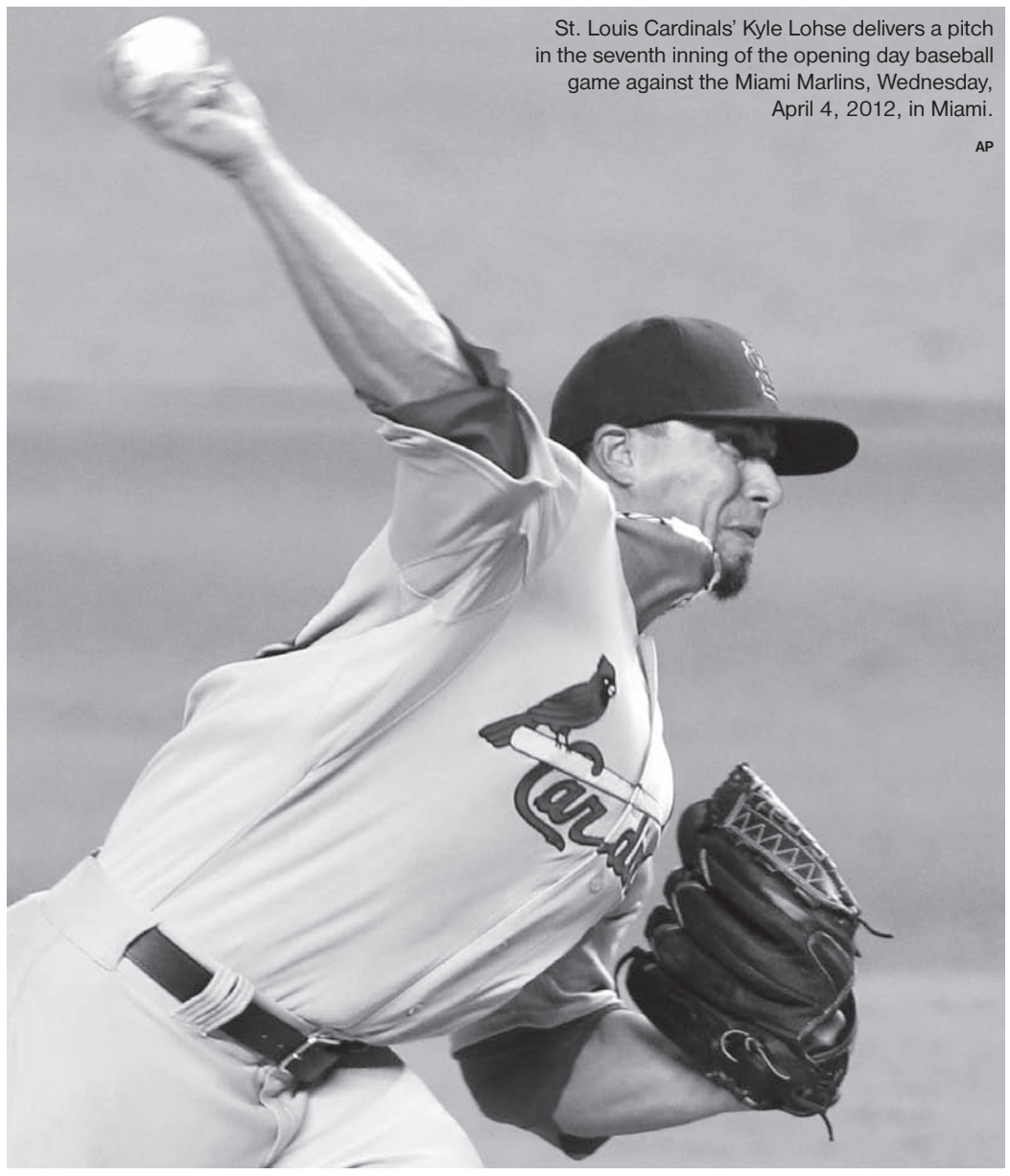
POI Aviation is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

Bookkeeper
Associate's Degree in Business or Accounting. At least 2 years of work related experience in general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in Microsoft Office applications and various logistics software and adept in the use of of SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controling) System. Can work well even with less supervision.

Applications can be obtained at the POI Aviation Office at the Continental Cargo Building at the airport. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than April 9, 2012. Back ground checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

POI Aviation is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Cards spoil Marlins' debut in new ballpark, 4-1



St. Louis Cardinals' Kyle Lohse delivers a pitch in the seventh inning of the opening day baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Wednesday, April 4, 2012, in Miami.

AP

MIAMI (AP)—The sellout crowd in the Miami Marlins' new ballpark cheered the introduction of their starters, who were accompanied by women dressed as Latin showgirls. There was another roar for Muhammad Ali, who delivered the first pitch.

Then Kyle Lohse and the World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals went to work, and the place grew quiet.

Lohse held Miami hitless until the seventh inning and pitched into the eighth to help the Cardinals win the first game in Marlins Park, 4-1 Wednesday night.

The Marlins' new animated home-run sculpture never budged. It was the fourth inning before they even managed a baserunner, and by the time they scored in the eighth, they trailed 4-0.

"It's a good ballpark for a pitcher, obviously," Lohse said. "It's pretty hard to get it out."

New Marlins manager Ozzie Guillen was asked if the team's new home is a pitcher's park.

"For Lohse, yes," Guillen said. "But it's too early to say how the ballpark is going to play."

The crowd of 36,601 included newly retired Cardinals manager Tony La Russa, who quietly rooted for his former team from the press box.

He watched Lohse retire the first 10 batters before hitting Emilio Bonifacio with a pitch. The runner was erased when Hanley Ramirez grounded into a double play.

Newcomer Jose Reyes singled for Miami's first hit to start the seventh, and Omar Infante scored the Marlins' run in the eighth on John Buck's double. Lohse went 7 1-3 innings, allowing only two hits and one run.

The right-hander led the Cardinals last year in victories and ERA but got the call for opening day only because ace Chris Carpenter is sidelined with nerve irritation that has caused weakness in his pitching shoulder.

David Freese, the World Series MVP, had a two-run single in the first inning to give Lohse the cushion he needed. Freese and Rafael Furcal each had three of the Cardinals' 13 hits.

"Tonight was fun," Freese said. "It's always nice to get the season going and to open up here, beautiful ballpark, the fans were excited about it and so were we."

Jason Motte earned the save with a one-hit ninth, completing the four-hitter and sending the Cardinals to the clubhouse to celebrate first-year manager Mike Matheny's debut win.

"We gave him a little water shower," Lohse said. "Most people go with the adult beverage but we went with the water."

Things were so bad for Guillen's team that Marlins ace Josh Johnson recorded the ballpark's first strikeout - but as a hitter.

Johnson allowed 10 hits and three runs in six innings. The 2010 NL ERA leader was pitching for the first time since last May 16, when shoulder inflammation ended his year.

Ramirez, making the switch to third base from shortstop, had an especially rough night. He drew scattered boos when he pulled up rather than dive for a grounder to his left, and he failed to throw out Furcal on a bunt that went for a hit. Ramirez also struck out with a runner aboard in the ninth to finish 0 for 4.

Both teams began the season with a new look. The Marlins, anticipating better attendance and higher revenue in their new home, acquired three All-Stars in an offseason spending spree. The Cardinals, coming off a thrilling late-season charge to the World Series title, lost slugger Albert Pujols to free agency and La Russa to retirement.

La Russa visited with Matheny before the game. Also on hand was baseball Commissioner Bud Selig, who said his reaction to the ballpark was, "Wow."

Among the eye-catching features is the colorful home-run sculpture beyond the centerfield wall, but the Marlins failed to activate it, although Giancarlo Stanton did send two flies to the warning track.

The retractable roof, which is expected to be closed for all but about 10 games, was opened 30 minutes before the first pitch, revealing a nearly full moon on a 79-degree evening. Surprise guest Ali delivered the first pitch, which Ramirez gently took from the champ's hand.

The first pitch from Johnson to Rafael Furcal caught the outside corner for a called strike. Furcal then grounded to new shortstop Reyes for the first out.

Cardinals newcomer Carlos Beltran followed with the first hit, a sharp single to right. He took third on a double by Lance Berkman, and Freese drove in both runs with a two-out single.

Furcal's two-out RBI single in the second made it 3-0, and a 50-foot groundout by Daniel Descalso brought home an insurance run in the eighth.

Selig's review of Marlins' ballpark: 'Wow'

MIAMI (AP)—Commissioner Bud Selig offered a one-word review of the Miami Marlins' new ballpark.

"All you can say is, `Wow,'" Selig said.

Muhammad Ali had the same reaction.

Selig's critique came 90 minutes before the first pitch of the first game Wednesday in the Marlins' season opener against the World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals, who won 4-1.

The ballpark's retractable roof, which is expected to be closed for all but about 10 games, was opened 30 minutes before the start. When the Marlins were introduced, each starter was accompanied by a young lady dressed as Latin showgirl.

The surprise guest delivering the ceremonial first pitch: Ali. He emerged from behind the center-field gate in a cart alongside team owner Jeffrey Loria, who had his arm around the former heavyweight champion.

"He's so strong," Loria said. "I was holding onto his hands, and he just about destroyed my hand."

When they pulled up next to the mound, Marlins third baseman Hanley Ramirez gently took the ball from Ali's hand.

Loria said Ali's appearance had been in the works for two months.

"I wanted to give the fans the sense that we're doing special things here," Loria said. "He is still the most famous person on the face of the earth."

Ali's reaction to the ballpark?

"He thought it was quite special," Loria said. "He said, 'Wow.'"

Selig lobbied for years in support of Loria's campaign for the ballpark. There was considerable local opposition to the $634 million project, which was financed primarily with tax money, but Selig predicted critics will eventually be swayed.

"Given what went on here, this is a very special day," he said. "Five years from now, you won't find anyone against this. You can debate the economic advantages, but new ballparks just have enormous sociological value. It makes that city a better place to live."

Two other teams still seek new homes—the Tampa Bay Rays and Oakland A's.

After finishing last in the NL in attendance each of the past seven years, the Marlins have had brisk ticket sales, and Loria said he's certain fans will continue to come as the season progresses. He said the Marlins enjoyed good attendance in their first season, and again in 1997 and 2003 when they won the World Series.

"They come when they're given a good club," Loria said. "And we've given them a very good club this year. It's a team where I expect us to be there in the end."

Selig is also optimistic about the Marlins' long-term future.

"They've got potential they never had before," he said.

New manager Ozzie Guillen said attendance ultimately will depend on the team.

"To keep people excited, we've got to win games," Guillen said. "That's how you keep the excitement in any city, with any ballpark."

In anticipation of bigger crowds, the Marlins nearly doubled their payroll this season to more than $100 million, and they expect to contend for the NL East title.

Regardless of the team record, the ballpark roof should make baseball more appealing in South Florida. Steamy weather and the frequent threat of rain made baseball outdoors a tough sell, Loria said.

"It's impossible to play baseball in Miami in the summer," he said.

Votto agrees to longest contract in MLB history

CINCINNATI (AP)—Joey Votto got a big payday by staying in a small market, agreeing to a $251.5 million, 12-year deal with the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday that is the longest guaranteed contract in major league history.

The agreement adds $225 million over 10 years to his previous contract. The deal includes a club option for 2024, when the 2010 National League MVP turns 41.

After watching NL Central rivals St. Louis and Milwaukee lose their first basemen to bigger markets, the Reds secured Votto with a package that easily eclipsed Ken Griffey Jr.'s $116.5 million, nine-year deal from 2000 as the largest in franchise history. In the majors, it trails only Alex Rodriguez's $275 million and $252 million deals, both over 10 years.

"Is it risky?" said owner Bob Castellini, who sought a lot of outside advice before signing off on the deal. "No doubt. That's the environment we live in, especially as a small market. We feel Joe will be a cornerstone."

It wasn't an easy decision for the 28-year-old Votto to make such a long-term commitment. He decided he had found contentment in Cincinnati, which took him in the second round of the 2002 amateur draft.

"Maybe I could have found that elsewhere," Votto said. "Maybe not. But I like what I've got here."

Under Castellini, the Reds have been trying to rebuild the franchise into a regular winner by developing players and holding onto them. Six of their nine starters on opening day have come through the farm system.

Keeping Votto rather than letting him leave for a bigger market was considered a key.

"It's hard to compete with the bigger markets," manager Dusty Baker said before a workout at Great American Ball Park. "You see those guys who have left—they couldn't come up with a deal—and they go to bigger markets like New York, L.A., Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, Anaheim.

"It means a lot not only for the franchise but also for the city. It means kids can grow up emulating him and pretending to be Joey Votto."

Albert Pujols helped St. Louis win the World Series, then got a $240 million, 10-year deal from the Angels in December. Prince Fielder led Milwaukee to the division title, but left for a $214 million, nine-year contract with the Tigers.

The Reds have been trying to lock up the young core of their team for the past few years. Outfielder Jay Bruce received a six-year, $51 million deal after the 2010 season, when Cincinnati won the division but got swept in the playoffs by Philadelphia.

Votto was offered a long-term deal then as well, but chose a $38 million, three-year contract instead. He said he's more willing to make a long-term commitment now, and joked his girlfriend probably was happy about that, too.

Votto gets base salaries of $9.5 million this year and $17 million in 2013 under his previous agreement. The new deal includes salaries of $12 million in 2014, $14 million in 2015, $20 million in 2016, $22 million in 2017 and $25 million in each of the following six seasons. The Reds have a $20 million option for 2024 with a $7 million buyout.

Votto's contract tops the 11 seasons Colorado gave Todd Helton in 2001, a deal that guaranteed him $151.45 million.

It's an aggressive move for a small market franchise. Castellini said Votto's deal won't handcuff the franchise in keeping other players or Baker, who is entering the final year on his deal.

"What we're doing will not be to the financial detriment to the makeup of our team in the future," he said.

Lakers down Clippers in showdown in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Andrew Bynum scored 36 points, Kobe Bryant added 31 and the first-place Lakers outlasted the Clippers 113-108, widening their Pacific Division lead to 2 1/2 games over the second-place Clippers and snapping their rival's winning streak at six games.

By taking two out of three against their Staples Center cotenants, the Lakers also earned the head-to-head tiebreaker in a game that could help decide the division winner and playoff seeding in the West. The division winner will likely earn the No. 3 seed behind Oklahoma City and San Antonio.

Former Laker Caron Butler scored 28 points to lead six Clippers in double figures. Chris Paul added 22 points and 16 assists, Blake Griffin had 15 points and 14 rebounds, and DeAndre Jordan had 11 points and 13 rebounds for the West's fourth-place team—the designated home team. Their winning streak was the franchise's best in 20 years.

Ramon Sessions added 16 points and eight assists to help the Lakers win their fourth in a row.

Heat 98, Thunder 93

In Miami, LeBron James had 34 points and 10 assists, Dwyane Wade scored 19 points and the Miami Heat avenged a loss at Oklahoma City last week, rallying to beat the Thunder 98-93 on Wednesday night for their 17th straight home victory.

Mario Chalmers scored 13 points, and Chris Bosh had 12 for Miami, which trailed by 11 in the first half before a comeback fueled in part by Russell Westbrook pulling James down from behind on a fast break in the second quarter.

Kevin Durant scored 30 points for Oklahoma City, and Westbrook added 28, but shot 9 for 26. James Harden had 12 for the Thunder, who lost despite holding Miami to 37 percent shooting.

The win moved Miami (39-14) within two games of Chicago (42-13) in the race for the NBA's best record. Oklahoma City fell to 40-14.

Durant could have given Oklahoma City the lead with 1:30 left, backing down James and then trying a turnaround from the left side. His shot was way off, hitting the top of the backboard.

Bosh, who had been 3 for 13 to that point, made a jumper on the next Miami possession to make it 96-93. Kendrick Perkins then missed two free throws with 43.6 seconds left, the first Thunder misses from the line all night after starting 18 of 18.

Spurs 87, Celtics 86

In Boston, Tim Duncan had 10 points and 16 rebounds and San Antonio won its ninth straight game, recovering to beat Boston after blowing a 17-point, first-half lead.

Duncan also stopped Paul Pierce on the final play, forcing him into a fallaway jumper that bounced off the rim at the buzzer.

Danny Green scored 14 points, and Gary Neal had 13, including a 3-pointer with 2 minutes left that gave the Spurs the lead after Boston went on a 13-4 run to move in front.

Rajon Rondo had 17 points and 11 assists for Boston. The Celtics had won five in a row.

Pierce had 15 points and 10 rebounds, but he couldn't maneuver into open space after Boston inbounded the ball with 7.9 seconds left. Avery Bradley scored 19 points off the bench for Boston, and Kevin Garnett had 16 points, seven rebounds and five assists. Ray Allen returned after missing six games with a sore right ankle and added seven rebounds and five points, including a 3-pointer in the final minute.

Bucks107, Cavaliers 98

In Milwaukee, Monta Ellis scored 16 of his 30 points in the final 5 minutes, helping Milwaukee fend off a Cleveland team missing Kyrie Irving.,

Brandon Jennings scored 19 points, and Ersan Ilyasova added 18 for Milwaukee. The Bucks have won four of their past five to close within a game of New York for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. The Knicks were off Wednesday.

Anthony Parker had a season-high 27 points for the Cavaliers, who have lost nine straight and 12 of 13. Irving reinjured his sprained right shoulder Tuesday night in a blowout loss to San Antonio.

Pacers 109, Wizards 96

In Washington, Danny Granger scored 20 points, and Indiana won its third straight game, shooting a season-high 58 percent in a victory over Washington.

Darren Collison added 17 points and 11 assists for Indiana. The Pacers have won eight of 11 to move into third place in the Eastern Conference.

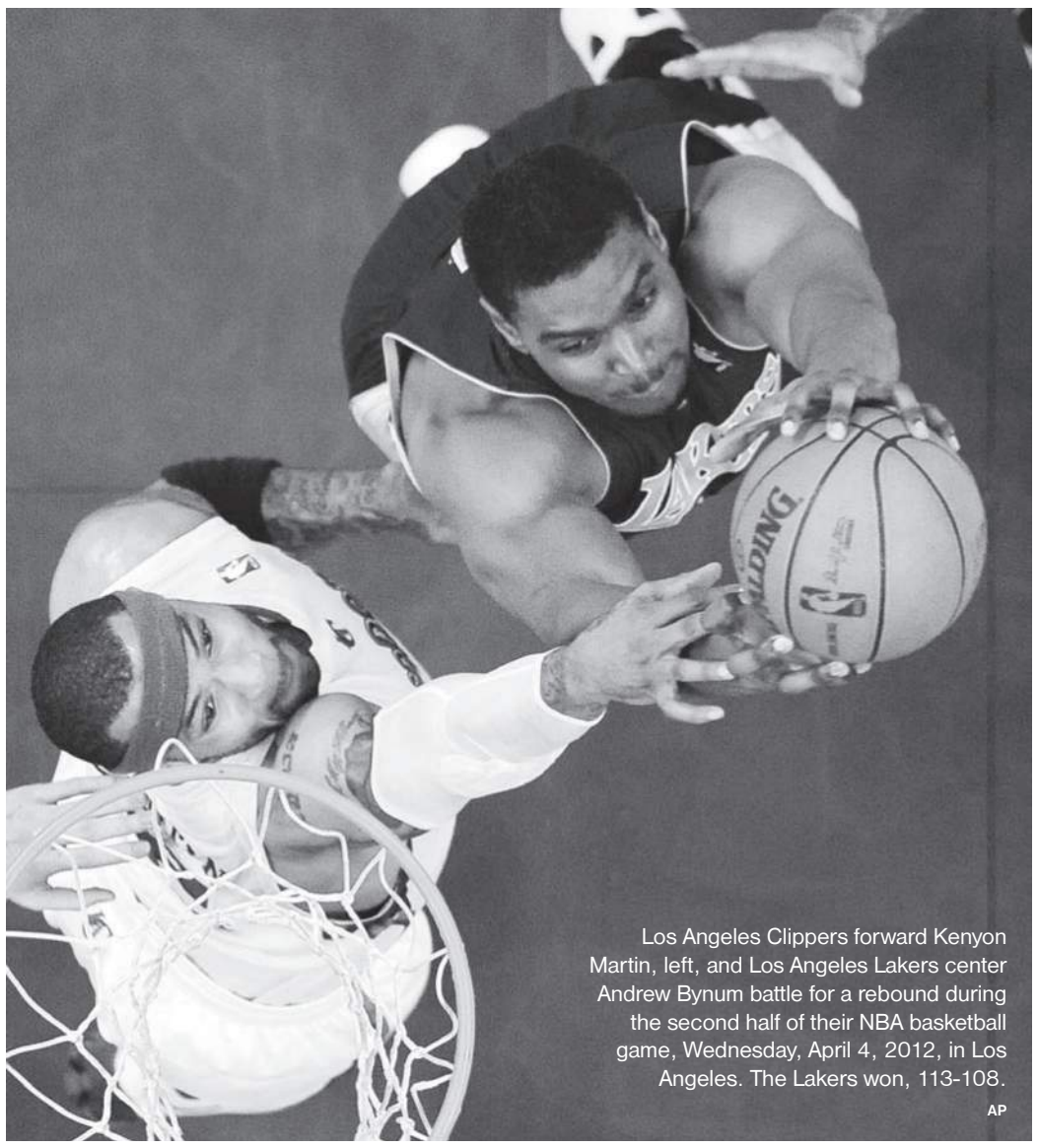
Jordan Crawford scored 28 points, and Kevin Seraphin had a career-high 19 points and added 10 rebounds for Washington. The Wizards have lost eight of nine.

Mavericks 95, Grizzlies 85

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 23 points and Dallas used a big fourth-quarter run to beat Memphis.

Shawn Marion scored 10 of his 16 points when the Mavericks went ahead with a 21-4 run over a 7-minute span in the fourth quarter. It was the first of two games in four days between the teams in a virtual tie for fifth place in the Western Conference standings.

O.J. Mayo had 17 points to lead Memphis.



Los Angeles Clippers forward Kenyon Martin, left, and Los Angeles Lakers center Andrew Bynum battle for a rebound during the second half of their NBA basketball game, Wednesday, April 4, 2012, in Los Angeles. The Lakers won, 113-108.
AP

Sullinger leaves Ohio State for NBA draft

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—After guiding Ohio State to the Final Four, two-time All-American forward Jared Sullinger figured he might as well see what he could do for an NBA team.

The 6-foot-9 sophomore announced on Wednesday that he is giving up his final two seasons with the Buckeyes to make himself available for the NBA draft in June. Most projections have him going in the top 10 picks.

"Going to the Final Four with a team that many people said we weren't good enough, weren't strong enough, weren't mentally tough enough, and still being able to get to the Final Four with all the ups and downs we had, I think that was tremendous for this basketball team," Sullinger said, flanked by his parents and coach Thad Matta. "Once we got to the Final Four, we were trying to win it. But unfortunately, we fell short. I feel at peace with the decision I'm making."

The Buckeyes lost to Kansas 64-62 in the national semifinals on Saturday.

Sullinger averaged 17.5 points and 9.2 rebounds a game while shooting 52 percent from the field, 77 percent at the line and 40 percent on 3-pointers while leading the Buckeyes to a 31-8 record and a Final Four berth. He was 63-10 as a starter.

"I've always said he's one of the most intellectual players I've ever coached," Matta said. "He came in that way as a freshman. The thing is that people don't know he studies the game. Not only the college game, but the NBA game. He can tell you a lot about a lot of NBA issues. For him, the timing is definitely right."

Sullinger's father, Satch, was his coach at national power Northland High School in Columbus. He believed the youngest of his three sons, all of whom played Division I basketball, had the ability to play in the NBA. But he also knew he wasn't ready a year ago when Jared was considered a top-five pick.

"The skill set's always been there. But last year, at this time, I wasn't comfortable as a parent with the option of him possibly going to the NBA," Satch Sullinger said. "Jared's had it pretty easy in basketball, he's been relatively injury free. This year I watched the peaks and valleys and I watched him mature. There's only one way to get experience and that's by being inexperienced in a situation. I watched him be immature in certain things and work his way out of it. I saw that consistency start to come back during the end of the season run all the way through the Final Four."

Jared Sullinger came back for his sophomore season with a dramatically different team—missing three senior starters from a top-ranked team that finished 34-3—and with a dramatically different body. He shed 25 pounds and was much more mobile. Rather than get all of his points with his back to the basket on the block, he frequently popped outside to shoot over defenders. He became one of the Buckeyes' top 3-point threats.

He battled through back spasms and a foot injury early in the year. Sullinger was at his best down the stretch, scoring a huge basket in the closing seconds at Northwestern that kept the Buckeyes in the Big Ten title hunt. They then won at Michigan State in the final regular-season game to tie Michigan State and Michigan for the championship.

Deshaun Thomas, a 6-7 sophomore at Ohio State, is also considering the NBA.

Matta said he was still compiling information for Thomas, who is mulling his decision. Sullinger said he had not spoken to his teammate.

Suns 107, Jazz 105

In Salt Lake City, Steve Nash hit two shots in the final 14 seconds and Phoenix won its seventh straight meeting against Utah to jump over the Jazz in the Western Conference playoff race.

The Suns (28-26) are in ninth place, a half-game ahead of the Jazz (28-27) and a game behind Denver, which lost Wednesday at New Orleans, and idle Houston. Phoenix also owns the tiebreaker with the Jazz.

Michael Redd led the Suns with 19 points, and Nash finished with a 13 points and nine assists. Paul Millsap led Utah with 25 points and had a chance to force overtime, but his putback came just after the buzzer.

Warriors 97, Timberwolves 94

In Minneapolis, David Lee had 31 points and eight rebounds, and Golden State rallied from a 20-point deficit to top Minnesota.

Charles Jenkins had 19 points and seven assists,and Richard Jefferson scored 13 points on 5-of-7 shooting to help the Warriors snap a six-game losing streak. They trailed by 20 with less than 2 minutes to play in the first half, but outscored Minnesota 40-19 over the next 8 minutes.

Kevin Love had 29 points and 12 rebounds, and Wayne Ellington scored 10 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter for Minnesota. The Timberwolves have lost four in a row and five of their last six to fall out of contention in the Western Conference playoff race.

Hornets 94, Nuggets 92

In New Orleans, Eric Gordon scored 15 points in his first action in three months, capping the performance with two free throws in the final seconds to lift New Orleans past Denver.

Trevor Ariza scored 15 points, and Chris Kaman added 14 points and 10 rebounds for New Orleans.

Ty Lawson scored 22 points for Denver, which tied it at 92 on Al Harrington's 3 from the corner with 10 seconds left, only to see Gordon bait Arron Afflalo into a foul on an up-fake near the lane with 2 seconds left. Gordon was returning from a right knee bruise that required arthroscopic surgery.

Afflalo finished with 15 points and a career-high seven assists.

Raptors 99, Sixers 78

In Philadelphia, Andrea Bargnani scored 24 points, DeMar DeRozan had 18 and Toronto beat Philadelphia for its third straight victory.

Elton Brand and Jrue Holiday had 20 points each for Philadelphia. The 76ers have lost eight of 12 games to fall to seventh in the Eastern Conference.

Trail Blazers 101, Nets 88

In Portland, LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points and nine rebounds and Portland rallied after surrendering the lead to New Jersey in the fourth quarter.

Nic Batum added 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Blazers, who led by 16 points in the third quarter. Kris Humphries had 21 points and 11 rebounds for the Nets.

Hawks 120, Bobcats 93

In Atlanta, Josh Smith scored 24 points, Jeff Teague added 17 and Atlanta beat Charlotte.

Joe Johnson finished with 16 points for Atlanta. Rookie Kemba Walker led Charlotte with 21 points. The NBA-worst Bobcats have lost nine straight to drop to 7-45.

Woods, McIlroy lead wide-open field at Masters

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Tiger Woods couldn't see the green through the trees, though that was only a minor obstacle. He choked up on a 5-wood and played a sweeping draw around the pines, over the water and onto the back of the green.

As he approached the Sarazen Bridge to the 15th green Wednesday, the grandstand rumbled when fans suddenly rose in unison to see him walk by. Some of them held cameras as high as they could, clicked and hoped for the best.

Woods is worth watching at the Masters for all the right reasons.

All it took was one win at Bay Hill two weeks ago for Woods to even remotely resemble the guy who once dominated golf. He won by five shots, and, just like that, was elevated to the favorite at Augusta National.

"Everything is headed in the right direction at the right time," Woods said.

But he's not the only star of this Masters.

Rory McIlroy has all the traits of the heir apparent - an easy swing that produces enormous power, a U.S. Open title at age 22, a tennis star for a girlfriend, and an engaging personality - something that Woods is not. In his last 12 tournaments, McIlroy finished third or better eight times, including two wins and a brief stay at No. 1 in the world.

"I'm in a great place," McIlroy said. "I feel like my golf game is in great shape."

There is so much anticipation about this clash of generations it's as if they were the only two players competing for a green jacket, much like the days of Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer.

Far from it.

"There probably hasn't been a Masters with more legitimate chances," Geoff Ogilvy said before heading out for a final practice round. "I can understand people seeing this as a two-man race, but it's never been further from the truth. There are more horses in this race than ever before."

Luke Donald returned to No. 1 in the world three weeks ago by winning at Innisbrook. He is one of eight players among the top 20 in the world who have won this year, a list that includes Woods and McIlroy, along with Hunter Mahan (twice), Steve Stricker, Justin Rose and Phil Mickelson, a threat at Augusta even when he's not playing well.

AP

Tiger Woods, Sean O'Hair, and Mark O'Meara walk down the 14th hole during a practice round for the Masters golf tournament Wednesday, April 4, 2012, in Augusta, Ga.

"And you've got a guy like Keegan Bradley," Ogilvy said, referring to the PGA champion who won the first major he ever played. "Nobody ever talked about a Masters rookie with a chance. There's more people in the conversation, isn't there?"

One conversation that was kept short Wednesday was Masters chairman Billy Payne refusing to discuss the all-male membership at Augusta National. The topic returned this year because IBM appointed Virginia Rometty its CEO, and the last four chief executives of Big Blue were invited to be members.

"All issues of membership are now and have been historically subject to the private deliberations of the members, and that statement remains accurate, and remains my statement," Payne said.

Despite a few more attempts - including a tense moment when Payne cut off a series of questions by saying, "Thank you" - the focus at Augusta quickly shifted back to golf.

Still fresh are memories from last year, when eight players had at least a share of the lead in the final round - McIlroy early, Woods in the middle, Adam Scott late - until Charl Schwartzel finished with four straight birdies for a two-shot win.

It could be anyone this year - not just Woods and McIlroy.

"Rory has never won here," Lee Westwood said. "Tiger has not won here since 2005. So I think everybody in this room would have to be naive to think it was a two-horse race, wouldn't they? There's more. I think Phil might have a little bit of something to say about that. Luke might. I might."

Adding to the wide-open feel is the weather.

An unseasonably warm spring, which caused the azaleas and dogwoods to already lose their blooms, gave way to storms that dumped 1 1/2 inches of rain on the course before dawn Wednesday and toppled a few trees, including one that crashed onto a restroom.

Another storm arrived in the afternoon and cut short the Par 3 Contest, along with making Augusta National even softer. Mickelson said to brace for birdies in such soft conditions. His fear was that players could fire at pins, instead of thinking their way around a course that can require so much strategy.

The forecast was for occasional storms the opening two rounds, followed by sunshine on the weekend. That's all it takes to change the dynamics of this major. The greens are more receptive, yet a soft course also becomes a longer course.

Soft conditions might favor McIlroy. Remember, Congressional also received plenty of rain at the U.S. Open last summer when Boy Wonder set the championship record at 16-under 268.

"He plays without fear, which is a great way to play," Mickelson said. "When you get soft conditions like at the U.S. Open, he's going to light it up. And I think that he's going to continue his great play. If he ends up learning this golf course, I think he's going to win here a number of times."

Then again, that's what Nicklaus and Palmer said about Woods when they first saw him at Augusta as an amateur and predicted he would win as many green jackets as they had combined - 10. Instead, he is stuck on four Masters.

McIlroy will be playing with Angel Cabrera the first two rounds, a replay from last year. They were in the final group, when McIlroy shot 80 on the final day to go from a four-shot lead to a 10-shot deficit.

Asked if he felt sorry for McIlroy going through such a meltdown, Cabrera said:

"No, because when I play bad, nobody feels sorry for me. It was a shame, but I didn't feel bad for him. I knew it was going to be hard for him. When we got done, I told him, `This is a tournament you can win many times.'"

Payne: No comment on membership issues at Augusta

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Jabbed, prodded and poked repeatedly about a topic that never really goes away, Billy Payne wouldn't budge.

Faced with questions at his annual news conference about when a woman would become a member at the home of the Masters, the Augusta National chairman gave different variations of the same answer: That's our business, not yours.

The topic was on the front burner again Wednesday, the eve of the year's first major, because one of the club's longtime sponsors, IBM, has a new CEO - Virginia Rometty. The last four CEOs at IBM, all male, have been invited to be members.

Payne's polite-but-firm responses were in direct contrast to those of his predecessor, Hootie Johnson. Faced with the issue 10 years ago, Johnson famously declared female membership would come on the club's timetable and "not at the point of a bayonet."

"As has been the case whenever that question is asked, all issues of membership have been and are subject to private deliberations of the members," Payne said when the inevitable question was asked for the first time Wednesday. "That statement remains accurate and that remains my statement."

Asked to expand on his refusal to comment, he gave two reasons: "Number One, we don't talk about our private deliberations. Number Two, we especially don't talk about them when a named candidate is part of the question."

He did not say whether Rometty was that specific "named candidate."

The issue first came up in 2002, when Martha Burk, then the chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations, campaigned for Augusta National to end its all-male membership and threatened to boycott companies whose executives belonged to the club. Johnson responded by cutting loose corporate backers and the Masters was televised without commercials for the next two years. A planned protest before the 2003 Masters was a dud and the issue slowly receded.

When Payne replaced Johnson as chairman of the club and of the Masters tournament in 2006, he said there was "no specific timetable" for admitting women. The question was raised at the 2007 and 2010 Masters. Both times, Payne said membership issues were private.

Today, in addition to IBM, Exxon Mobile and AT&T are also sponsors of the Masters.

Contacted after Payne's news conference, Burk said she didn't pay attention to it and had no plans to protest this year because "we saw that didn't work."

It's not her job to pressure the club, she said, but rather, IBM's.

"If they're willing to diminish the company's image, and to discredit in a certain way their new CEO, that's a loud and clear statement," Burk said. "I would regret to see that very much. I think it's astounding that one of the largest corporations in the world is having their strings pulled by a bunch of old guys in Augusta."

Rometty, who took over as CEO on Jan. 1, is said to play golf sparingly. She is more passionate about scuba diving.

IBM spokesman Ed Barbini said the company had no comment.

Because the secrecy level at Augusta National is so high, there could already be a female member that nobody knows about. Though members are visible during the Masters because of their iconic green jackets, not every member is in attendance this week.

Several reporters, trying to get a clearer picture of what goes on inside these gates, came at the question from different angles. Each time Payne graciously swatted them away, preferring to talk about the weather, developments of the club's digital platforms and other issues surrounding the tournament that starts Thursday.

NFL BRIEFS

Eagles sign LT Bell

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Demetress Bell will get a chance to replace Jason Peters again in a different city. The Philadelphia Eagles agreed Wednesday to a five-year contract with Bell, hoping the former Bills left tackle can fill in for injured All-Pro Peters. "Demetress was one of the top free agent offensive linemen available this year and we are happy to be able to add him to our squad," coach Andy Reid said. "We had a chance to meet him over the weekend and study him extensively on tape and we came away quite impressed with what we saw and heard. "He's a great athlete." Bell, 6-foot-5 and 311 pounds, started 30 games in four seasons in Buffalo. A seventh-round pick in 2008, Bell became a starter after Peters was traded to Philadelphia. Peters, who went to his fifth Pro Bowl in January, ruptured his right Achilles tendon last week and had surgery on Tuesday. It's uncertain whether he'll return in 2012.

Chargers re-sign Castillo, add Spurlock

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The San Diego Chargers have re-signed defensive end Luis Castillo to a one-year contract. He was released on March 5. Castillo broke his left leg in the 2011 season opener. He was placed on injured reserve on Dec. 8. This will be his eighth season. The Chargers also signed former Tampa Bay wide receiver-kick returner Michael Spurlock to a one-year contract. The Chargers will be his fourth team. Spurlock is one of only two players in Tampa Bay history with both a punt and kickoff return touchdown to his credit. He was the first Buccaneers player with two kickoff returns for touchdowns.

Panthers sign free agent Smith

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The Panthers added more competition in their defensive backfield on Wednesday, signing free agent safety Reggie Smith from the San Francisco 49ers. Terms of the deal have been not announced. The 6-foot-1, 200-pound Smith played in all 16 regular season games and both playoff games for the San Francisco 49ers in 2011. He recorded 16 tackles and one interception during the regular season. Smith also contributed on special teams with six special teams tackles during the regular season and two during the postseason."Reggie has been on our radar since the beginning of free agency and is a player we think can come in and compete at safety," Carolina general manager Marty Hurney said. "We brought him in for a visit Tuesday and it worked out. He is another player we've added to increase the competition."

Salalila takes two checkered flags

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Paul Salalila won the Saipan Radio Control Racers' A main and open divisions 1/10 stock electric short course events in the group's monthly March races held last weekend at their track in As Lito.

Jude Dickinson came into the A main finals as the top qualifier, but Salalila's TraXXas Slash broke away from the pack in the final heat and led 10 of the 15 laps. Salalila posted a field-low 18.54-second lap time for a swift victory, maintaining a 30.06-second average per lap. He finished the race just a hair above seven and a half minutes (07:30.94).

Rodney Catalla came in at second place with his HPI Blitz for a 30.69-second average through 14 laps, while Dickinson (TraXXas Slash) settled for third place with a 30.88-second revolution rate.

Other A main participants were Jojo Saracho (31.76 seconds/14 laps), newcomer Lenmark Diaz (33.74 seconds/13 laps) and Leo Gatus (35.30seconds /12 laps).

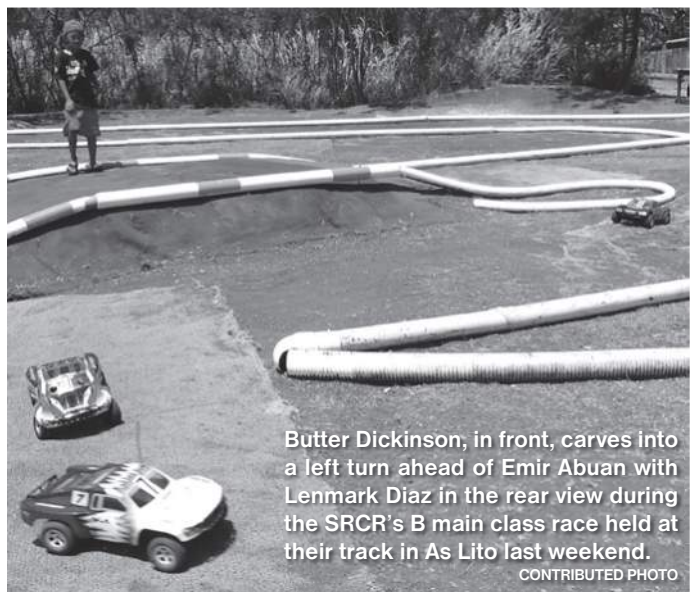
Salalila also navigated his way to victory lane in the open division in his Kyosho Ultima SC. He came into the finals as the top qualifier and crossed the line ahead of Catalla (HPI Blitz) and Jude Dickinson (Team Associated SC-10).

Notably Diaz graduated into the A main class last weekend after taking the top honors in the B event. Diaz took the pole in the B qualifier, beating Emir Abuan and Butter Dickinson. All three podium finishers drove Traxxas Slash trucks.

James Salalila was also victorious in the March races, as he topped the young gun category.

James' Kyosho Ultima SC took the pole in the preliminaries and went on to speed away against runner-up Kodin Diaz (Team Losi XXX-SCT) and third finisher Adam Salalila (Team Associated SC-10).

Last weekend's racers are among the more than 20 active SRCR members who regularly take part in the group's practices every Sunday in As Lito. The public is welcome to check out the track and learn more about the hobby/sport. Contact Rodney Catalla at 256-7119 for more information.



Butter Dickinson, in front, carves into a left turn ahead of Emir Abuan with Lenmark Diaz in the rear view during the SRCR's B main class race held at their track in As Lito last weekend.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SWEEP

From Page 32

Jehn Joyner led MPU Blue's demolition of Tan Holdings as he logged four goals. Brian Lee and Dakota Hall chipped in two apiece, and John Taisacan, Greg Sablan, and Ryota Ito contributed one each. Joyner had back-to-back goals in the first half, while Hall and Bryan had one each before Joyner scored anew for MPU Blue's 5-0 halftime lead.

Joyner picked up where he left off, making MPU Blue's first goal in the second half, while, Lee, Sablan, Taisacan, Hall, and Ito lit up the scoreboard, too in the final 45 minutes of the match.

Matansa 7, Shirley's FC 1

Also cruising to an easy win was Matansa, who downed Shirley's in the first game last week.

Sean Perez duplicated Joyner's four goals against Shirley's, scoring in the 19th, 27th, 43rd, and 50th minute. Ryu Tanzawa drew first blood for Matansa with his goal three minutes into the game. Perez had two goals in the first half, while Jeong Wook Hwang added one for their 4-0 halftime lead.

Perez was unstoppable in the second half, scoring back-to-back goals in a span of seven minutes, while Tanzawa hit another one in the 60-minute mark.

Shirley's lone goal came from Vincent Manacop and the team had only a win against four losses after the first round. Matansa finished the first round with a better 3-1-1 record for third place.

Paire 6, MPU Silver 1

Paire ended up in second place after the first round, following a 6-0 triumph over MPU Silver.

Paire holds a 4-0-1 card, while MPU Silver has yet to break into the win column.

Hunter Jewell had a hat-trick for Paire, while Won Jun Kim, Billy Hinson, and Joel Fruit logged one goal each. Jewell found the back of the net early, making his first goal in the eighth minute, while Kim also scored 12 minutes later for Paire's 2-0 advantage at the break.

Hinson made it a 3-0 lead right into the first minute of the second half and his goal sparked a Paire run in seven minutes, as Jewell got his second goal in the 48th minute and Fruit recorded his first five minutes later. Jewell completed the rout with his third goal in the 75th minute.

Meanwhile, the girls U15 games at the Hopwood Junior High School both resulted in draws.

Paire and Matansa played in the second match at the Hopwood pitch and had a scoreless draw, while MP United and Shirley's FC were also in a deadlock in the first game, 1-1.

Negahr Rastguiy scored for MP United in the first half, while Diana Maniacop made the equalizer for Shirley's in the second half.

BOYS U18
Paire 10, Matansa 0

In the first game in the boys U18 league, Paire crushed Matansa, 11-0.

Juanito Tiamzon anchored Paire's blowout win with his three goals, while Thomas Lee contributed two, and brothers Colin and Mason Fruit, Hae Sung Lee, Don Cabrera, and Zhi Lin fired one apiece.

Hae Lee put Paire in the scoreboard with his goal in the fifth minute, while Tiamzon, Colin Fruit, and Cabrera followed suit for their 4-0 lead at halftime. Lin and mason Fruit then gave Paire its first two goals in the second half before Thomas Lee and Tiamzon closed out the game with two goals each.

Paire gained its third win in five games, while Matansa is still winless after five matches.

MP United 3, Tan Holdings 2

In the other U18 match, MP United edged Tan Holdings.

Evert Van Der Maas made the game-winning shot, as he scored his first and only goal in the 62nd minute. MP United's two other goals came from Paul Yoon and Joyner, while Tan Holdings drew twin goals from Tanapon Unsa.

Yoon put MP United in the lead with his goal in the 10th minute, but Unsa answered three minutes later to force a deadlock. Unsa helped Tan Holdings seize the lead with another goal in the 28th minute, but the game ended in a tie at the break after Joyner scored in the 32nd minute.

Both teams struggled in the second half before Maas found a lapse on Tan Holding's defense and nailed one goal with still 28 minutes left in the match. MP United is still perfect in five games, while Tan Holdings owns a 1-1-3 slate.

RED

From Page 32

Noag hammered an RBI double, Barry Sunumai lifted a sacrifice fly, Frankie Lifoifoi bagged an RBI single, and Bradley Lieto hit an RBI double.

The Falcons then pulled in front, 7-6, in the third inning off a James Kintaro triple and a sacrice fly by Sunumai. The Red Sox's Jhace Palacios was called to the mound with the bases loaded and two outs to stop the bleeding.

Then the game became locked at 9-all in the fourth. The Red Sox brought home three runners of an error, a double by Camacho, and a base knock from MJ Sakisat, but the Falcons'Kintaro and Sunumai answered with two runs in the bottom frame with a double and a single.

The Red Sox were not discouraged, however and spurted ahead, 11-9, in the fifth inning off a sacrifice fly by Aguon and a two-out double by Roke Tenorio.

The count shifted to 13-12, in the sixth as the Red Sox managed a couple runs from a base smash by Jobe Reyes before the Falcons made three runs, two hits and three fielder's choices. Lifoifoi bagged an RBI single. The Red Sox stirred up two more runs in the seventh from Jose Taiquingco and caged the birds to just a run in the final stand.

Fielders 12, Jets 9

The Fielders built a 4-0 lead after four innings as they scored two runs in the second off two hits and an error and another pair in the third with aggressive base running.

Both teams put up the runs in the fifth and the Fielders went ahead, 12-3, heading into the last inning of regulation where they fought off a late Jets rally.

Winning pitcher Jadrien Camacho pitched six innings before coming loose when he returned to the mound to try and finish the duel. He left after another three runners came home in the seventh and ended up allowing four earned runsoff nine hits, including a two-run homer from Franco Nakamura in the fifth. Camacho also issued five walks and struck out four.

The Fielders' Kainoa Wanket batted 2-for-4 with two RBIs and three runs. George Pangelinan scored three times and Nakamura swung 4-for-5 with four RBIs and two runs.

SENIOR LEAGUE
Ol'Aces 8, Fielders 7

The Fielders broke the ice with two runs in the opening frame with Davin Ada stealing home and Khobby Kaipat scoring off a wild pitch. They then moved ahead, 6-0, in the top of the second off a pair of doubles by Keene Guerrero and Ada (RBI) and two base hits by Kaipat and Poland Masaharu (RBI).

The Ol'Aces managed a run in the bottom frame from a triple by AJ Lizama, who scored off an error. The Ol'Aces then halved the deficit, 3-6, in the third inning off three hits with Jun Rabauliman bagging an RBI single. The Ol'Aces pulled within a run, 5-6, in the fourth inning from a RBI poke by Jonah Flores and an RBI single by Rabauliman and later knotted the count at 7-all after the fifth inning. The Fielders' Masaharu led off with a hit and stole the dish, while the Ol'Aces' Lancaster Sechamredal drove in a run and snuck home.

The Ol'Aces' Frankie Camacho took the ball and closed the last two innings with ease, while teammate TJ Sablan cranked the walk-off triple with one out in the bottom of the seventh.

Rabauliman swung 3-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs. Lizama batted 3-for-4 with two runs.

Hunters 14, Jets I 11

The Jets I established a promising 8-2 lead after three innings, but the Hunters rolled up their sleeves and mounted an impressive comeback in the late innings.

The Hunters top of the order rallied back with six runs in the fifth inning off five hits. Steven Cabrera doubled home a run and was driven home by Jonah Reyes. Thomas Reyes then stepped in and busted a two-RBI double followed by a two-RBI base rip by Juan Deleon Guerrero. The Jets I managed to get one run back to remain ahead, 10-8.

The Hunters then clawed in front, 11-10, in the top of the sixth inning off four hits. They managed a couple base hits that set up an RBI single from Jonah Reyes and two-RBI double in the clutch from Jesus Mafnas.

Hunters' Jerome Reyes came to the mound to close out the last two innings and held the Jets I to just one run. The Hunters added three insurance runs in the top of the seventh with the help of some walks and untimely errors out in the field.

Ol'Aces 5, Jets I 1

The Jets I's Jordan Taitano led off the second inning with a triple and was brought to the plate by Tristian Javier, but the Ol'Aces answered with a run in the top of the fourth from an RBI single by Lancaster Secharmedal and pulled ahead, 5-1, in the sixth with the help of some sketchy pitching.

Jets I plunked the leadoff man, who was later sacrificed home with a fly ball from AJ Lizama. The next three batters reached on balls and made it home off a fielder's choice and wild throws.

Winning pitcher Secharmedal gave up one earned run off six hits and two walks with three strikeouts in four and one-third innings.

KAGMAN

From Page 32

Janica Lizama and a fielder's choice by Tracy Pelep. Southern's Malinda John and Daylinne Joseph answered with base smashes for two runs in the bottom frame.

Both teams came up empty in the third inning before Kagman's top of the order surged ahead, 13-5, in the top half of the fourth off five hits. Lizama, Pelep, Acha Sakisat, Zerah Castro, Andrea Camacho, and Dela Cruz all came to home plate.

This season, matches are formatted with seven innings, however due to time and light constraints, officials informed Southern that the bottom half of the fourth frame was going to be the Lady Rays' final chance to come from behind.

Southern bit down with its back against the wall, as Annalisa Blas, Tamleen Ada-Hocog, Jinky Kintaro, and Joseph all reached and scored to start the inning, but the Lady Rays only managed one more run from Jovanna Okaruru before Kagman finally closed the last out.

The 10 runs scored under the watch of winning pitcher Castro came off five hits and seven walks. She tallied six strikeouts through four innings.

Kagman's Santos batted 2-for-3 with a run.

The season continues on Wednesday at the "Tan Ge" pitch with Kagman taking on the Marianas High School Lady Dolphins at 4pm.

SUNRISERS

From Page 32

in the regular season, 77-80.

Blue Haus with its loss at the hands of Mobil in the extra five minutes of their controversial game dropped to third with a 6-3 record and will be playing the resurging Shirley's Coffee Shop on Monday at 6:30pm.

Shirley's was ranked sixth in the eight-team playoffs with its 4-5 record behind QQ Car Rental and Crystal Pure, which had similar 5-4 slates and will be playing in the last quarterfinal game also on Monday at 8pm. Crystal Pure got its fifth win last week after downing SCS, 77-69.

Andhok's Grille and SCS claimed the last two playoff berths after prevailing in the quotient system. The two squads tied Hite Beer/Blue for seventh to ninth place with their identical 3-6 marks, but the latter was eliminated as it lost both to Andhok's and SCS in the regular season. Joining Hite Beer in the showers was Smart Cagers/Ali'i, which only had a 2-7 mark.

Winners of the quarterfinals pairings will advance to the semis on April 13, while the one-game finals will be played next Saturday, April 14.

Bike Leg of the 2012 Tagaman Triathlon

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Australia's Ben Allen bikes to an uphill road in front of the Palms Resort during last Saturday's 2012 Tagaman Triathlon.

Germany's Jens Buder passes the uphill road in front of Palms Resort.

United Kingdom's Jacqui Slack cruises along the flat road near Mariana Resort.

Mieko Carey heads up to the elbow road leading to the Bird Island Lookout.

U.S. pro Will Kelsay (14) leads a group of bikers heading to Marpi.

Spectators watch Australia's Ben Allen goes down the elbow road in Marpi.

Saipan's Tyce Mister heads to Marpi.

France's Cedric Lassonde keeps his focus on the road to catch up with Australia's Ben Allen.

Saipan's John Douglas slows down at the bike-run transition area at Micro Beach.

Switzerland's Renata Bucher, right, begins a punishing climb toward the Bird Island Lookout.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Kagman fends off Southern in opener

Sweep for MPU Blue; Paire routs foe

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United Blue swept the first round of the boys U15 division of the 2012 NMIFA Youth Spring League after yet another lopsided victory last Saturday's game at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

MPU Blue clobbered Tan Holdings FC, 14-0, in the third game in Week 5 of the U15 league for a perfect 5-0-0 win-draw-loss record and the lead in the six-team field. Tan Holdings absorbed its third loss with only a win and one draw to show in the first round of the double-round robin competition

See SWEEP on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Paire, right, and Matansa strikers battle for the ball during the first half of their game in the boys U18 division of the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Defending champion Kagman High School started the 2011-2012 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Fast-Pitch Softball League with a 13-10 victory over the resilient Saipan Southern High School last Wednesday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

MISO

The Lady Ayuyus worked out an early lead and went on to hold off a last-inning rally from the Lady Rays to win the opening game of the season.

The visiting Kagman broke the ice with two runs in the opening frame from errors, but Southern pulled ahead, 3-2, in the bottom frame of a base rip by Tara Ramon mixed in with some shaky pitching.

The Lady Ayuyus then assumed control, 7-3, in the top of the second inning off hits by Jenny Dela Cruz, Jeromalyn Santos, and

See KAGMAN on Page 30

Kagman High School, right, and Saipan Southern High School players collide at third base during the opening game in the MISO girls fast-pitch softball league last Wednesday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield. WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Sunrisers get top seeding, open playoffs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Sunrisers/Island Apparel will be seeded first in the playoffs of the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity Basketball Invitational Friendship League and will battle the last qualifier SCS Heavy Equipment at the start of the quarterfinals tomorrow at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The Sunrisers-SCS quarterfinal match at 6:30pm will be the first playoff game to be played this season as the league took a weeklong break after completing the round-robin elimination. In the second game at 8pm, Mobil Smiles will take on Andhok's Grille.

The Jawn Joyner-led Sunrisers took the No. 1 seeding after finishing the regular season with a 7-2 record, beating Mobil in the tiebreak. Mobil, which won its last and make-up game in the elimination against defending champion Blue Haus, 120-111, lost in the tiebreak as it bowed to the Sunrisers in their lone meeting

See SUNRISERS on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Sunrisers' Pete Lizama pulls up for a short jumper against Blue Haus' Junar Guiab during their game in the regular season of the DLX/Miller Lite caging last month at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Red Sox edge Falcons; Ol'Aces remain unbeaten

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Junior League's Bank of Saipan Red Sox triumphed over the Natibu Sports Association Tanapag Falcons, 15-13, as the Saipan Little League Baseball regular season continued at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield last week.

The win improved the Sox's card to 4-2, while the Falcons endured their third loss in four games.

In other Junior League results, the IT&E Fielders (2-3) survived a late rally from the Jets (1-3), 12-9.

In other results, the Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces notched two more wins in the Senior League last week to extend their streak to six, while the Rep. Antonio Sablan-Eliceo D. Cabrera Hunters (6-3) defeated Saipan Shipping Company's Jets I, 14-11. The Ol'Aces outlasted the Jets I (2-5), 5-1, last Thursday and clipped the IT&E Fielders (4-2), 8-7, last Sunday.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The Hunters' Jonah Reyes, pictured in this file photo, batted 2-for-3 with two RBIs, two runs, a stolen base, and a base on balls in their 14-11 victory over the Jets I in the Senior League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

JUNIOR LEAGUE
Red Sox 15, Falcons 13

The Red Sox scrambled for two runs off errors in the first inning and added four more in the top of the second off an RBI triple by Craig Aguon and a two-RBI double by Jonathan Camacho. However, the Falcons swooped back to within a run, 5-6, in the bottom frame off five hits. Derek

See RED on Page 30